

Continental Directory

The Arabian Year Book 1987/88

Available in Bookshops

For more information, call 2418730/738

ARAB TIMES

AL AZMI STUDIO

We are ready to photograph all types of parties. An enlarged picture will be provided FREE.

Special discount for school students

Salmiya, St. No. 331, opposite the Palestinian School, Block No. 198. Tel. 5855988.

Managed by Mohammad Salim Khan

NO. 7183

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1988

RAJAB 11, 1408 AH

16 PAGES 150 FILS

THE WORLD THIS MORNING

Plane crash

MOSCOW, (Reuters): An unspecified number of people were killed when a passenger plane crashed as it was coming into land in the West Siberian city of Surgut, Tass news agency reported.

Three-day siege

GAUHATI, (Reuters): Militant students, demanding eviction from Assam of illegal immigrants, started a three-day siege of oil installations in the north-eastern Indian state yesterday to block the pumping of crude oil to refineries, police said.

Evacuation

ABIDJAN, (Reuters): Fireforced evacuation of the international terminal building at Abidjan airport yesterday but no one was injured and flight schedules were not affected, officials said.

Delvalle in hiding

PANAMA CITY, (Reuters): Deposed President Eric Arturo Delvalle eluded military guards and went into hiding as military leader General Manuel Antonio Noriega tried to persuade him to go into exile, relatives said yesterday. (See Page 2)

Blast in

Pakistan bazaar kills five

ISLAMABAD, Feb 27, (Reuters): A bomb killed five people and wounded 11 in a bazaar in north-western Pakistan today, state-run Pakistan television said.

The bomb exploded at Thal in the Kohat district of North West Frontier Province, the report said. Two of the injured were in a critical condition.

There was no immediate indication of who was responsible for the bombing, the third in the province this month and the latest in a series of attacks which have killed more than 200 people since the beginning of 1987.

INSIDE

International	2
Kuwait-Gulf	3,4
Events	5
Editorials	6
Pictures	7
Features	8,9
Business	10,11
Classifieds	12
Urdu	13,14
Sports	15,16

○ صدر ضیاء نے راجہ گاندھی کا دعوت نامہ مسترد کر دیا

○ پاکستان کی سیاسی جماعتوں کو کفر اور کثرت کی دعوے

○ دو عربی فلسطینیوں کو ہلاک کر دیا گیا

○ شہزادوں کے جہاز کرائے کیلئے شام پہنچ گئے

○ ترکی کا ایک طیارہ تاجکستان پر عراق کے زبردست حملے

○ مراکشیوں کو طبیعت

WEATHER

TEMPERATURE will be around normal with light variable wind and a chance for scattered clouds.

State of sea: slight

High water: 7.30 am, 11.00 pm

Low water: 1.30 am, 4.00 pm

Sunrise: 6.16 am

Sunset: 5.45 pm

Maximum temperature recorded: Kuwait: 23°C 73°F

Ahmad: 20°C 68°F

Falaka: 19°C 66°F

Minimum temperature expected: Kuwait: 23°C 73°F

Ahmad: 20°C 68°F

Falaka: 20°C 68°F

Maximum temperature recorded: Kuwait: 23°C 73°F

Ahmad: 20°C 68°F

Falaka: 19°C 66°F

Minimum humidity recorded: Kuwait: 9 per cent

Ahmad: 48 per cent

Falaka: 55 per cent

Maximum humidity expected: Kuwait: 40 per cent

Ahmad: 60 per cent

Falaka: 60 per cent

Fighting flares up

Two more shot dead in occupied territories

HALHOUL, West Bank, Feb 27, (Reuters): Two more Palestinians were shot dead today and dozens wounded in renewed fighting with troops on the Israeli-occupied West Bank, eyewitnesses and hospital officials said.

The deaths, following those of four Palestinians yesterday brought to 74 the unofficial death toll since unrest in the occupied areas began on Dec 9.

Heavy fighting erupted around Hebron's Alia Hospital as wounded from riots in Halhoul were being treated.

Baker Abdullah Al Baw, 22, was rushed to the hospital after a bullet pierced his heart during riots at Halhoul in the West Bank, witnesses said.

Raged

Doctors battled in a vain attempt to save his life as a battle raged around the hospital between soldiers firing live ammunition and tear gas and dozens of stone-throwing Palestinians. Relatives snatched the body and disappeared with it outside.

In Jerusalem's Mokaddes Hospital, Nihad Al Ghaffar, 21, died after being shot during clashes at Arub refugee camp, hospital officials said.

A military spokesman confirmed the death but could not give the cause. He said he had no information about the dead man in Hebron.

Wounded demonstrators, including a youth with a bloody stump where a finger had been, staggered into Alia Hospital as troops besieged the building for at least two hours.

The clash in Halhoul began when stone-throwing Arabs brandishing the Palestinian flag were confronted by soldiers who fired an unidentified red gas, according to witnesses.

Curfew

Jamal Tewfik, 22, with a bullet in his thigh and multiple bruises, said he had been shot in the demonstration and that "afterwards" soldiers came and beat me on the leg."

At Arab, Palestinians built stone barricades across the Jerusalem-Hebron road and threw rocks at soldiers who used gas to disperse them, wounding at least four, Israeli radio said.

Palestinian sources reported riots in several refugee camps and villages throughout the West Bank, and said soldiers used live

ammunition, tear gas and beatings to subdue protesters. At least 35 people were injured and taken to West Bank hospitals, the sources said.

The Arab village of Abadiyah, near Bethlehem, was placed under curfew and 39 of its residents were arrested, accused of taking part in the riots yesterday, an Army spokesman said.

Curfews were clamped on the Jabalya refugee camp, where a Palestinian was killed during demonstrations yesterday, and on the Al Bureij camp in the Gaza Strip, he said.

Similar restrictions remained in force at the Shira and Dier Al Bahak camps in Gaza, confining 120,000 Palestinians to their homes.

Israel, meanwhile, faced fresh condemnation over the brutal beating of two Palestinian prisoners by Israeli soldiers, filmed by a US television crew and screened worldwide.

The senior commander in the West Bank, Major-General Amram Mitzna, went on Israeli television to express horror at the incident and announced that four soldiers had been arrested and their officer relieved of his command.

In the film, shot outside Nablus on Thursday by a CBS news team, soldiers were seen using rocks to bludgeon the arms of two seated, handcuffed Palestinians, who were also punched, kicked and hit on the head but offered no resistance.

Terrible

"The incident is really very terrible... we were horrified and couldn't get a word out of our mouths," Mitzna said after viewing the 40-minute film.

Despite widespread evidence of troops entering Palestinian homes at night and beating residents, clubbing bystanders, women and children, and continuing to beat suspects after they have been arrested, the Army has insisted that incidents of brutality have been rare exceptions.

Cypriot and Palestinian demonstrators stoned the Israeli Embassy in Nicosia today during an anti-Israeli protest, witnesses said.

They said about 100 people, some of whom had earlier attended a meeting on the Palestinian uprising in Israeli-occupied territories, broke through a police cordon around the embassy.

Shultz probes Jordan and Syria on US peace plan

DAMASCUS, Feb 27, (Reuters): US Secretary of State George Shultz battled Arab suspicions of a new regional peace effort today as he conferred with Jordanian and Syrian leaders on a proposal to end unrest in Israeli-held Palestinian lands.

Shultz met Syrian President Hafez Al Assad to discuss a US initiative aimed at giving limited self-rule to Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza and at setting the scene for Arab-Israeli talks on a definitive peace accord.

Progress

Shultz flew to Damascus from Amman, where he had reviewed the proposals with Crown Prince Hassan and Prime Minister Zeid Al Rifai. He was returning later to occupied Jerusalem, the base for his five-day Middle East mission.

There was no immediate word of progress in Shultz's talks with Assad. Diplomats in Damascus said the discussions were also likely to cover the plight of American hostages in Lebanon

and prospects for political stability there.

Syria's official radio, in a comment before the talks, said: "When the United States abandons its old ideas and becomes convinced it should work for a comprehensive peace, the mission of US envoys in the region will be easier."

Envisages

Jordanian Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri sounded a similar note when he told reporters after Shultz's talks in Amman that Jordan was determined to seek an international conference to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"Jordan believes that the basis for any peaceful settlement in the area must be the withdrawal of Israel from the occupied territories and securing the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to determine their own future," Masri said.

The Reagan administration's new proposal envisages an international meeting to pave the way for interim Palestinian self-rule



An Israeli soldier hits a Palestinian girl at the back of her head near occupied Jerusalem. (Reuters wirephoto)

US insistence to shut PLO office in UN

General Assembly may be moved

UNITED NATIONS, Feb 27, (Reuters): The UN General Assembly may leave New York next September if the United States insists on shutting the PLO mission here, officials said yesterday.

The United Nations invited the PLO to take part in UN meetings without the right to vote and the threat to close its mission has put the United States on a collision course with the world body.

Possible

Officials said there was a real threat that a specially reconvened session of the General Assembly next week might agree to move the 43rd General Assembly, opening on Sept 13, to Geneva or Vienna.

The UN has subsidiary headquarters in both places.

UN financial experts were directed to cost a possible switch and report urgently to Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar so that he could put the data before the Assembly, officials said.

The United Nations is in grave financial difficulties because of the failure of the United States and other members to pay their assessed dues, Perez de Cuellar, said.

Fighters killed

SIDON, Lebanon, Feb 27, (Reuters): A Muslim militia said five of its fighters were killed in a four-pronged attack today against positions of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia east of the southern town of Sidon.

21 die as cliff collapses

FEZ, Morocco, Feb 27, (AP): A cliff, weakened by days of rain, collapsed early today onto a shanty settlement, killing at least 21 people and injuring six, authorities said.

Rescue workers continued to dig through the ruins of the settlement in search of other victims who might be trapped in the debris.

Those left homeless by the disaster and numerous families whose homes were threatened were evacuated and given temporary refuge at a centre in the suburbs of Fez, which is 200 kilometres (125 miles) east of Rabat, the Moroccan capital, according to local officials.

Israel urged to accept peace conference

Western navies in the Gulf to stay: Mellor

By Keith Wells and Jadranka Porter

THE British Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, David Mellor said in Kuwait yesterday that Israel must agree to join an international peace conference if progress toward peace in the Middle East is to be made.

He also said that Western Navies protecting shipping in the Gulf had no intention to withdraw their fleets.

"Western Navies are here in the Gulf to stay for a long and indefinite period," he said.

Mellor addressing a press conference at the Kuwait airport on his way to Bahrain from Baghdad, also called on the PLO to renounce violence and accept UN Security Council resolution 242 and 338, which recognise Israel's right to secure boundaries.

Existence

"As soon as the PLO renounces violence and accepts Israel's right to exist it could engage in direct talks with Washington. The failure to take this step only damages the PLO itself," he added.

"The PLO must think about how it can become accepted by the leading Western countries."

However, Mellor was at pains to point out that the primary responsibility to offer the hand of peace at this time and a basis for a peace conference lies with Israel.

He said Israeli authorities must ensure that their troops comply with the Geneva Convention.

Seventy-four Palestinians have been killed and hundreds injured by Israeli gunfire and beatings since a violent uprising began in the occupied Arab areas on last Dec 9.

Mellor described US Secretary of State George Shultz' visit to the Mideast as a genuine and important peace initiative for which he felt Britain could justifiably claim much of the credit.

"The Israelis must understand



Mellor

that the status quo in the occupied territories is no longer an option," said Mellor.

"If Shultz's proposals are rejected out of hand it will cause grave damage to Israel's international reputation."

Brutality

"Self determination for the Palestinian territories has been a key element of British policy since the Venice Declaration of 1980," Mellor pointed out that he had received no criticism whatsoever from any Arab Foreign Minister with regard to Britain's position.

Speaking on the presence of Western fleets he said although the British naval force in the Gulf had been reduced by one minesweeper, this was purely a matter of day to day fleet management and meant no reduction in commitment.

He also said: "The Arab world should not miss the present opportunity of resolving the Middle East crisis."

Mellor referred to his own recent visit to the West Bank and Gaza and said that his outspoken condemnation of Israeli brutality showed that he shared the Arab world's concern for the position of the Palestinian people there.

(Continued on Page 4)

Key oil refineries hit

Tehran bombed

NICOSIA, Feb 27, (AP): Iraq said waves of its fighter-bombers attacked key Iranian oil refineries in Tehran and elsewhere today in strikes aimed at crippling Iran's economy and warned it would hammer Iranian cities if its own are hit.

But Tehran Radio, said at least one civilian was killed and an undisclosed number were wounded in the raid on the Iranian capital's southern suburbs, but made no mention of other raids.

Iran vowed to retaliate against Baghdad and the southern Iraqi port city of Basra for the attack on its capital, the first in several months, Tehran Radio reported.

Shelled

But an Iraqi military spokesman warned that if any Iraqi city was hit "all Iranian cities, including Tehran, will become targets for our missiles, Air Force jets and other weapons."

Baghdad's official news agency quoted a military communiqué as saying Iranian gun-

ners later shelled the southern border town of Al Qurna, killing two civilians and wounding two others.

The news agency said that apart from the raids on economic targets, the Iraqi Air Force today flew 101 combat missions against Iranian troop concentrations, the highest one-day total in months.

Helicopter gunships flew another 72 missions, it added.

Today's raids raised anew the spectre of both sides renewing their intermittent "war of the cities" in which thousands of civilians have been killed since 1984.

Significantly, Iraqi authorities carried out evacuation exercises in Baghdad, Basra and other cities at risk from Iranian air, missile or artillery attacks.

Today's raids marked a sharp escalation in the stalemate 7-year-old Gulf war and came as Iraq's Army braced for new Iranian ground offensives.

US imported Iranian oil despite ban

WASHINGTON, Feb 27, (AP): The United States imported 6.4 million barrels of crude oil from Iran in the two months after President Reagan banned trade with that country, according to statistics released yesterday by a group affiliated with consumer advocate Ralph Nader.

Government officials said they believed that oil might have been exempt from the ban because it might have been contracted for before the President's action.

The Iranian shipments amounted to 7.3 per cent of US crude imports in November and December, after the President's ban. For all of 1987, Iran provided 5.1 per cent of US crude imports.

The ban on trade with Iran took effect on Oct 29.

Jason Adkins, director of Buyers Up, a consumer oil-buying cooperative founded by Nader, said officials at the foreign assets control division of the treasury and the strategic branch of the US Customs Service "were completely unaware of the November and December shipments of Iranian oil to this country until we brought it to their attention."

"When the enforcement people haven't a clue... it's a failed policy," he said. Asked whether the ban should be dropped, Adkins said: "I'm not making a judgement on that, but it's not working."

Zia refuses to visit India for Afghan talks

ISLAMABAD, Feb 27, (Reuters): Pakistani President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq today declined an invitation from Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to visit New Delhi to discuss Afghan peace efforts, the Foreign Ministry said.

A ministry statement said Zia had instead suggested Rajiv should visit Islamabad for talks with him and Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo.

The Foreign Ministry said Zia sent a message to Rajiv today and also spoke to him by telephone.

Zia expressed his gratitude for Rajiv's invitation but "regretted that he was unable to visit New Delhi at this time owing to preoccupations at home," a ministry statement said.

Moves

Junejo has invited leading politicians for talks in last-minute moves to evolve a national consensus on any UN-negotiated peace settlement in neighbouring Afghanistan.

Government officials said today Junejo had invited the heads of major political parties to a meeting on March 5.

Opposition politicians, who do not recognise the legitimacy of Junejo's three-year-old administration, said they were discussing their response.

Junejo sent the invitations as a Pakistani delegation prepares to leave for Geneva to resume UN-sponsored talks with the Soviet-backed Afghan government on March 2.

James Bond

LONDON, Feb 27, (Reuters): Secret agent James Bond is packing his licence to kill and moving to Mexico City to save money, the Star newspaper said today.

Deaths reported in Armenian clashes

MOSCOW, Feb 27, (Reuters): Thousands of Armenians in a disputed mountain region defied Moscow today and pursued protests demanding its return to Soviet Armenia, according to officials in the local capital.

But in the Armenian capital Yerevan, mass demonstrations of the past nine days gave way to smaller-scale street meetings at which speakers called for a cooling of passions on the issue, journalists in the city said.

At the same time, a Yerevan newspaper reaching Moscow today indicated clearly for the first time that there had been deaths in fighting between Armenians and Azerbaijanis in the upland farming district at the focus of the unrest.

The Armenian Communist Party daily Kommunist quoted Kremlin envoy Vladimir Dolgikh as telling television viewers in the Transcaucasian Republic on Thursday.

Clashes

"The affair in Nagorno-Karabakh has gone as far as clashes between groups of Armenians and Azerbaijanis and there have been victims."

Dolgikh used the Russian word "zhertyv", which has an imprecise connotation but is commonly used in reference to people killed in accidents or to civilian casualties of hostilities outside the Soviet Union.

Nagorno-Karabakh, an autonomous region whose

174,000-strong population is 75 per cent Armenian, people of Christian tradition, was transferred in 1923 to neighbouring Soviet Azerbaijan, a republic with a predominant Muslim culture.

Crowds

Officials in Stepanakert, its capital, said by telephone that huge crowds of people were still in the streets there despite a broadcast appeal yesterday from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev for restraint.

Gorbachev, facing the first major challenge of this type to confront a Kremlin chief since the early 1920s, called on demonstrators "to return to normal life and work and observe public

order."

One official in Stepanakert, which has 33,000 inhabitants, said people were still carrying placards demanding the reunification of the region with Armenia.

"There have been meetings at every enterprise, at every working collective and at district councils. All people demanded reunification," the woman official, who declined to be identified, said.

But she said one banner reading "Karabakh is crying while Moscow remains silent" had disappeared after Gorbachev's appeal was broadcast on loudspeakers on the streets as well as on local radio and television on Friday.

INTERNATIONAL

Operations against Tamils scaled down

COLOMBO, Feb. 27, (Reuters): Indian troops have scaled down operations against Sri Lanka's Tamil separatist guerrillas to enable unofficial peace talks to continue, an Indian diplomat said today.

High Commissioner Jyoindra Nath Dixit said unofficial discussions began after Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels contacted Sri Lankan and Indian authorities in Colombo and in Madras, south India.

"Over the last week or 10 days there have been no pitched battles. We are not seeking out the LTTE. We are conducting only minimal operations," Dixit told a news conference.

"We have deliberately scaled down the operations in the hope that they would come out with proposals to restore peace in Sri Lanka," he said.

Since last October, an Indian peace-keeping force of 50,000 soldiers have been hunting down the Tigers, who reject a peace accord signed by Sri Lankan President Junius Jayewardene and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi last July.

Dixit said some proposals,

which he described as extraordinary, had been made at discussions between representatives of the Tigers and Sri Lankan officials, whom he did not identify.

He said he had referred these proposals to Jayewardene, but the Sri Lankan leader had rejected anything outside the framework of the accord.

"No unilateral agreement outside the peace pact can be suddenly enforced," Dixit said.

One of the proposals being "banded about" was for the Tigers to be given control of the northern Jaffna peninsula while dropping all claims over the ethnically mixed eastern province, he said.

Wished
Under the accord, the North and East were to be brought under one semi-autonomous provincial council. A referendum was to be held within a year to enable the Tamils, Sinhalese and Muslims in the East to decide if they wished to continue the link with the North.

Tamils, who form 13 per cent of Sri Lanka's 16 million people, have been claiming the North and East as their homeland.

Dole gathers support in South

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27, (Reuters): Senate minority leader Robert Dole is picking up valuable endorsements from top Republicans from the southern states in his race against Vice President George Bush for their party's presidential nomination.

But Dole's aides still say he faces an uphill fight against Bush in southern primaries on "Super Tuesday," March 8.

"I think Dole is the most able and capable candidate of either party," former Texas Governor John Connally said at a Houston, Texas, news conference yesterday.

Mississippi Senator Thad Cochran also endorsed Dole yesterday. South Carolina Senator Strom Thurmond gave the Kansas lawmaker a public pat on the back earlier in the week.

The support of Thurmond, the senior Republican in the Senate and a power in South Carolina for over 40 years, was a big boost ahead of that state's key primary on March 5.

"Thurmond's endorsement put us in the ballpark," senior Dole strategist Bill Lacy told Reuters.

But he noted that opinion polls show Bush with a big lead in South Carolina and the 12 southern states that vote in the "Super Tuesday" primaries.

Individual states over a period of months are picking the delegates who will go to the Democratic and Republican parties' national nominating conventions this summer.

All 15 crew dead as Boeing crashes in north Cyprus

NICOSIA, Feb. 27, (Reuters): A Boeing 727 owned by a private Turkish-based firm crashed into a mist-shrouded mountain in northern Cyprus today, killing all 15 people on board, police said.

Witnesses said bodies, some charred beyond recognition, were scattered along with wreckage of the Talya Airlines plane over wide area in the Kyrenia range.

"We heard the noise of an aircraft. Its drone was followed by a big bang," 15-year-old Cemal Sakallilar from the nearby village of Arapko told Reuters at the crash scene.

The plane, which was carrying crew but no passengers on the flight from Istanbul, crashed minutes before it was due to land at Ercan airport in the breakaway Turkish Republic of North Cyprus.

Investigating
It was due to take a group of tourists to the Finnish capital of Helsinki on Sunday.

Officials were investigating the cause of the crash, the first in the breakaway republic since it was proclaimed unilaterally in 1983. Only Turkey recognises the republic.

Smoke was still rising from the crash site two hours after the plane ploughed into trees at 10:25 am (0825 GMT) near an ancient crusader castle on the 950-metre

(2,850-foot) peak of Bufovento.

Talya officials in Istanbul said the crew included "Turks and other nationalities. They gave no details."

Turkey's semi-official Anatolian news agency said the crew included up to six Yugoslavs and two British stewards.

Air traffic control officials at Ercan, 15 miles (25 km) east of Nicosia, told Reuters they were in contact with the Boeing seconds before the crash.

They said the pilot, asked if he could see the airport, responded negatively. Nothing more was heard from him.

"The plane ought to have been at 6,000 feet (2,000 metres) but apparently it must have been at 3,000 feet (1,000 metres)," one official said.

"We will not know the cause of the crash until the black box (flight recorder) is found," he added.

The Kyrenia range is in the far north of Cyprus, about 15 miles (25 km) from the divided capital of Nicosia.

Talya officials said the jet was their only aircraft but they had signed contracts with Boeing to lease a further six 727s.

A private firm with Turkish and European interests, Talya runs charter flights between Turkey, northern Cyprus, West Germany and Finland.



Panamanian strongman Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega (left) holds up the arm of the new President Manuel Solis Palma during a rally at the presidential palace. (Reuters wirephoto)

I am still the President: Delvalle

Noriega keeps grip on Panama

PANAMA CITY, Feb. 27, (Reuters): Panama's military strongman Manuel Antonio Noriega kept his grip on power yesterday while the man who tried to fire him, and wound up being fired instead, insisted that he was still President.

About 3,000 supporters rallied outside the military headquarters here in support of General Noriega.

But the thousands of Panamanians who took to the streets last summer to clamour for his ouster failed to turn out in support of Eric Arturo Delvalle, fired as President by the National Assembly after attempting to get rid of Noriega.

Shops, banks and businesses were open as usual and security forces kept a low profile.

Confusion
However, the Panama Industrial Union, the main business leaders' group, issued a statement supporting Delvalle and calling for a general strike.

Confusion reigned over who was nominally heading the country after the assembly, dominated by the pro-military Democratic Revolution Party, swore in Education Minister Manuel Solis Palma as new President.

"I am most certainly President and I will place a demand before the Supreme Court because the assembly action was illegal. It was a sham," Delvalle said yesterday.

President Reagan, who earlier this week labelled Noriega a "military dictator," said yesterday he still recognised Delvalle as President but ruled out force to back him.

Support for Delvalle also came from Venezuela, Argentina, and El Salvador while leftist Nicaragua and Cuba urged Noriega to keep fighting what they saw as US meddling.

Wedding
The United States, which has 10,000 troops based at its Latin American headquarters here, has led "international" calls for Noriega to step down.

President Reagan, who earlier this week labelled Noriega a "military dictator," said yesterday he still recognised Delvalle as President but ruled out force to back him.

Support for Delvalle also came from Venezuela, Argentina, and El Salvador while leftist Nicaragua and Cuba urged Noriega to keep fighting what they saw as US meddling.

22 held in Manila for sex with children

MANILA, Feb. 27, (Reuters): At least 22 foreigners caught naked in bed with young Filipino boys were arrested on suspicion of sexually abusing children today, Immigration Commissioner Miriam Santiago told reporters.

Americans, Britons, Belgians, Canadians, Dutch, Germans, Spaniards and one Japanese, ranging in age from 55 to 60, were detained in a series of raids in the tourist resort of Pagsanjan town, south of Manila, together with 19 Filipino boys.

They were caught naked in bed with some of the children," said immigration intelligence officer Flaridel Fernan.

Assorted sexual gadgets and pornographic photographs of teenage boys were seized in the raids, Santiago said.

The foreigners refused to be interviewed and covered their faces when photographers tried to take their pictures.

Lenin's letter
MOSCOW, Feb. 27, (Reuters): One of Lenin's last letters, in which he advised the removal of Josef Stalin, reached the future Soviet dictator by mistake and enabled him to secure his position, the Communist Party daily Pravda revealed on Friday.

The letter to the 1924 party congress, which state founder Vladimir Lenin, did not live to see, was published under former Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev in 1956. But how Stalin discovered it was made known for the first time here by Pravda.

Lenin, who described Stalin as rude and said he feared he had concentrated too much power in his hands as party secretary since 1922, told his secretary M. Volodicheva to keep the document secret until the congress.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Seven killed

AMRITSAR, India, Feb. 27, (Reuters): A feud that erupted after an Indian villager accused a neighbour of abducting his wife ended in tragedy when hired assassins shot dead seven people in a north Indian village, police said today.

Police said Mohinder Singh hired four or five gunmen who forced their way into a house in Talwandi Chanchak village, southwest of the Sikh holy city of Amritsar on Friday night and murdered the occupants.

Tiara Singh, his wife, two sons, two teenage daughters and a family guest died in the attack.

Mary Dunhill dies

LONDON, Feb. 27, (AP): Mary Dunhill, the last surviving child of Alfred Dunhill, founder of the tobacco and pipe-making company, has died at the age of 81. Death Notices said today.

Miss Dunhill, the only daughter among Dunhill's four children, joined the board of Dunhill Holdings in 1944, explaining "they were rather short of men," and in 1961 became chairman, succeeding her eldest brother, Alfred.

The cause of Miss Dunhill's death on Wednesday was not revealed.

13 die in mine blast

LEGASPI, Philippines, Feb. 27, (Reuters): Thirteen men of the Philippines' elite Scout Ranger Army unit were killed today when their truck hit a mine, the military said.

A military report said among the dead was the son of Brigadier-General Felix Brawner, military chief of northern Luzon, the Philippines' main island.

Brawner's son, a lieutenant, was not named in the report which said the mine was planted by communist rebels.

Mother Theresa

NEW DELHI, Feb. 27, (Reuters): Nobel peace prize winner Mother Theresa will visit the Soviet Union and China to set up missions for people who were "left alone," the Press Trust of India said today.

The 77-year-old nun told reporters in the east Indian coastal city of Visakhapatnam that she would visit the two countries with nuns from her Missionaries of Charity. She did not say which cities she had in mind or how long she planned to stay.

Art auction

LONDON, Feb. 27, (UPI): Sotheby's, the art auctioneering company, said Friday it would hold the first international art auction ever to take place in the Soviet Union this July.

Lord Gower, Sotheby's chairman, called it "an historic event." Sergei Popov, of the Soviet Ministry of Culture, said "we hope this will start a whole series of sales."

Explosion

JOHANNESBURG, Feb. 27, (Reuters): An explosion tore through an underground parking lot at Johannesburg's Van Smuts Airport today, police said.

There were no immediate reports of injuries and police said the blast caused only minimal damage to parked cars.

Dhaka officials asked to boycott polls

DHAKA, Feb. 27, (UPI): Two opposition leaders have urged civil servants and security officials to boycott the general elections that the government of President Hossain Mohammad Ershad has scheduled for March 3.

Bangladesh Nationalist Party's leader Begum Khaleda Zia and president of the Awami League, Sheikh Hasina Wajed—the two women spearheading the opposition against Ershad—issued a joint statement yesterday asking the Army, the security apparatus and police who are to be deployed for the polls to boycott the elections.

The statement was the first ever jointly issued by the two leaders.

Chief Election Commissioner Justice A T M Masud said yesterday that "all steps have been taken to ensure free and fair polls."

Strike

Thousands of Bangladeshi doctors, lawyers and other professionals staged a one-day strike today to demand the resignation of Ershad and show support for the opposition-led boycott of Thursday's parliamentary elections, organisers said.

Doctors maintained emergency services only, courts were closed and nearly 1,500 journalists walked out for three hours.

A Bangladesh Medical Association official said the stoppage was held to boost demands for "higher wages, job security and the change of government."

SITUATIONS VACANT

A leading group of companies requires for its service departments the following staff:

a) Salesman/Receptionist:

Candidates should be around 28 years of age with a minimum 3 years of experience in sales of a SERVICE industry and a sound educational background. Knowledge of Arabic and/or valid Kuwait driving licence, though not essential, will be an added qualification. ATTRACTIVE salary plus sales commission will be offered to the right candidate.

b) Accounts Assistants:

Should be a graduate around 27 years, with 3 years of working experience in Kuwait. Knowledge/working experience in computers, though not essential, will be an added qualification. ATTRACTIVE salary will be paid to the right candidates.

Apply immediately in OWN HANDWRITING giving names and addresses of non-related referees and CONTACT TEL. NO. to — The Advertiser, P.O. Box 23211, Safat, 13093, Kuwait.

AKAI

When you want your entertainment in an instant, you can't miss with Akai's VS-35 or VS-22 VCR. Both feature the world's first Quick Response System with Quick Start, Quick Index Search and Quick Intro Scan.

Additional VS-35 features include: DX 4-head system • 5 variable slow motion speeds • Super-clear stills and noise-free frame advance • 8-hr. LP recording/playback • 10-key programmable remote control • Interactive Monitor System • Auto operation features.

Additional VS-22 features include: Akai's HQ (High Quality) video system • Still picture/frame-by-frame advance • Slow motion speed • Double speed playback • 10-key programmable remote control • Interactive Monitor System • Auto operation features.

QUICK RESPONSE

More high performance features and startlingly faster response.



Video Cassette Recorder
VS-35
VS-22

Akai—Creative At Heart.

MORAD YOUSUF BEHBEHANI

Showrooms Tel: 2433595, 2434630, 2433110, 4810350, 3981043

Bingo Day 2

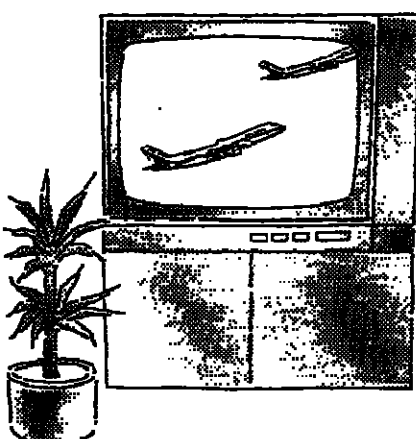
42 14 73 3

VACANCIES

- Instrument Engineers**
Qualified with 8 years of experience in maintenance of refineries and petrochemicals plants.
- Instrument Supervisors**
Technical certificate with 10 years of experience in maintenance of refineries and the like.
- Instrument Technicians**
Secondary school or technical training with 8 years experience in refineries and petrochemicals.

Candidates to apply to Personnel Manager, P.O. Box 2064, 13021 Safat Kuwait with CVs and copies of certificates.

TUNE IN TO UHF*



*ULTRA HIGH FREQUENCY OF FLIGHTS TO AND FROM INDIA

Day in, day out, Air-India flies more times a week, to more destinations in India than any other airline. Be our guest. Fly Air-India and get to your destinations faster.

AIR-INDIA
The airline that treats you like a Maharajah.

ملیہ میڈیا

French educationist lauds Kuwait's development

A FRENCH educationist has strongly lauded and appreciated Kuwait's development achieved in all fields and described Kuwait as one of the most advanced and modern countries of the world.

Jean Lascombe, president of the Bordeaux-1 University in France told Kuna that Kuwait has old traditions and civilisation. He described his first visit here as very interesting.

The educationist said he is visiting Kuwait at the invitation of Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmed Al Sabah, Minister of Social Affairs and Labour.

Accord

He said he was much impressed by the very high technological activities with which Kuwait is equipped in all walks of life.

Besides attending Kuwait's National Day celebrations, Lascombe visited many places of historical importance. He commended the enthusiasm of the

Kuwaiti people with which they celebrated their National Day.

The French guest also visited Kuwait University and held meetings with the rector Dr Abdul Razzak. He praised the standard of Education in Kuwait University as very good and indicated an accord on cooperation between the two universities in the field of science and economy may be signed soon.

Impressed

He also visited Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research and was greatly impressed by its research work in the field of technology. This institute is equipped with ultra-modern scientific instruments Lascombe said, and noted that good chances exist for cooperation between KISR and his university.

He said that European and Arab countries maintain very good relations and added endeavours should be made to further develop these relations.



Jean Lascombe
in the field of technology and the humanities.

Jean Lascombe advised the Kuwaiti students intending to pursue higher studies in France to have sufficient knowledge of the French language.

Focus on secondary education

RASHEED Al Hamad, the Assistant Undersecretary of Kuwait's Ministry of Education for Planning and Development, said that one of the most important recommendations made at the recent conference in Geneva was in regard to the philosophy and aims of secondary school education.

The emphasis was placed on the secondary education stage being the point at which students decide on higher education or work, he said, adding that the ministry had conducted many studies in this area.

He added that studies focus on the possibility of diversifying secondary education to qualify students in vocational skills rather than just the pursuit of higher studies.

Al Hamad said that the curriculum must meet the needs of society, but added that the ministry had no plans to establish special secondary schools for agriculture, economics or military studies at present.

Shaheen arrives in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 27, (Kuna): Kuwait's Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Sulaiman Majed Al Shaheen arrived here this evening for a four-day official visit to Malaysia.

During his stay here Shaheen will deliver a message of "goodwill and friendship" from the Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed, to the Malaysian Foreign Minister, Abu Hassan Omar.

He told Kuna on arrival at the international airport in Subang, that he hoped to meet with his counterpart Razali Ismail and other Malaysian Foreign Ministry officials to discuss matters of bilateral interest.

"During my stay here I will also take the opportunity to officially open the new Kuwait embassy complex on March 1," he said.

Opening

He added this was his first visit to Malaysia and the first leg of his tour to South Asian countries. Shaheen was received on arrival by the Kuwaiti Ambassadors to Malaysia, Essa Abdul Rahman Al Essa and several Malaysian Foreign Ministry officials.

The Kuwaiti envoy here has invited several hundred guests, including the Malaysian Foreign Minister and his deputy Dr Abdullah Fadzi to witness the opening of the 2.5 million dollar Kuwait mission complex.

The two-storey complex in typical Arab architectural grandeur is situated at the junction of the Malaysian city's busy avenues — the fashionable Jalan (road) Bukit Bintang and Jalan Tun Razak.

Beheaded

RIYADH, Feb 27, (Reuter): A Sudanese man, who stabbed to death a colleague in a row over a girl in Sudan, was beheaded in Jeddah after Friday's noon prayers, the Saudi Interior Ministry said today.

Mubarak Fadhil Al Mawla Abdul Ghani was the sixth convicted murderer to be executed in Saudi Arabia in two weeks.

Expatriate Student Day

ALI Al Feely, the Director of the Expatriate Student Affairs Department at Kuwait University announced that the department would hold a special programme on March 23 to celebrate the Expatriate Student Day.

Al Feely said the day would be celebrated with an exhibition of national costumes and foods, contributed by participating students, and folklore activities.

A football game is also planned, he said, between an expatriate student team and the university team as well as an educational competition.

He encouraged students to participate in the forthcoming event by registering their names with the Expatriate Student Affairs Department.

Theft most common crime in Hawally

COLONEL Abdul Aziz Al Shamlan, the Chief of Security at Kuwait's Hawally Governorate, said the most common crime in the Hawally area was theft. He added that this was encouraged by the carelessness of citizens and residents who leave their car and house doors unlocked.

Assign

He said the main aim of the security authorities was to minimise the frequency of theft and other criminal acts. He explained that the number of police stations in any area was determined by the population density and the social requirements of that particular area.

He said that the governorate would assign special police and

plain-clothesmen to arrest men who loitered around girls' schools and used the same policy for any sign of harassment in shopping areas or other places where people gather.

Col Al Shamlan emphasised that the security situation in Kuwait was stable and that adequate police patrols were allocated for each area in the country.

He said that complaints about policemen were always carefully investigated before any legal action was taken.

Al Shamlan appealed to citizens to avoid public installations while camping and encouraged young drivers to drive carefully.

Video shops making profits despite slump in market

VIDEO shops in Kuwait are making a good profit although there is a slump in other markets, according to a local newspaper.

It said that some customers described the video trade as an expensive one compared to other businesses, while others said that video shops were renting banned tapes at exorbitant prices.

The newspaper therefore interviewed customers and video shop owners.

One customer, Hussain Hassan, said that prices at video shops were very expensive because of the great demand, and called for strict control.

Abdullah Al Falah agreed with this view, complaining that the price for Kuwaiti plays was very high. He said the authorities should fix the price of video tapes, adding that a tape should not cost more than KDS. He said the annual subscription system was better for customers.

Cheating

Fareed Zarref said that video tape prices must be reduced because they were unbearable, and people such as himself could not purchase more than one film. He said that some video shops were selling prohibited tapes to some customers secretly, and called on the Information Ministry to punish such dealers.

Siham Munir said an annual

subscription was better than a monthly one. She said tape prices were increasing continuously although tapes were produced locally.

Ahmed Al Saleh said annual or monthly subscription rates differed from one shop to another. He said some shops were cheating customers by selling re-recorded tapes at the same price as original ones. He called on the Information Ministry as well as the Commerce and Industry Ministry to impose strict control on prices.

Khaled Abdullah said some video shops were selling sex films to youths at very high prices. He said the owners should be punished because they were spreading corruption.

Bashir Shaker said that shops were selling tapes at unreasonable prices and called on the authorities to put an end to such practices.

Adventure

Mohammed Sultan said that the monthly subscription was an unworkable one, because subscribers would be reluctant to see more than one film daily.

Oasma Qashlan said the video tape trade was an important one for making profit. He said some video shops were making huge

profits, especially when selling Kuwaiti plays. He said most youths preferred adventure films, but he preferred social ones.

A seller of video tapes, Mohammed Abu Ismail, told the newspaper that the price of a tape depended on the quality of the recorded material which was subject to many factors. He said most of his customers were girls and youths. He said girls preferred romantic films, youths preferred adventure films and older people preferred wrestling. He said the business was more active during holidays.

Faisal Abdullah said that good films are saleable, particularly Arabic films. He said Kuwaiti plays were very expensive because of the great demand.

Successful

Abbas Mohammed said it was undeniable that some video shops were selling tapes at very high prices. He added that most shops were trying to make big profits. He said that the price of local plays were very high, ranging between KD15 and KD10. Sulaiman Ahmed said youths preferred adventure and exciting films while girls preferred romantic ones. He said the price of tapes differed from one shop to another.

KUWAIT PRESS DIGEST

Solid internal front emphasised

AKUWAITI daily said HH the Crown Prince and Premier's address on the occasion of the country's 27th National Day has reflected the leadership's belief in the role of those who sacrifice for the sake of Kuwait.

The paper noted that the address further exposed those who try to fish in troubled waters and incite strife in the society.

The masses will dispose of those who attempt to disrupt the strong links between various sectors of the society and their leadership, the paper warned.

It emphasised, however, that Kuwait's solid internal front and the people's support of their leader, HH the Amir, and to various levels of the leadership will enable Kuwait to confront any wrong deeds.

The daily called for studying the Crown Prince's address by various state bodies and to make use of it practically.

GULF PRESS

US stand criticised

UAE newspapers commented additionally on the current mission of United States Secretary of State George Shultz to the Middle East and the American stand towards the 11-week old violent uprising in the occupied Arab territories.

The papers criticised the Arab stance regarding the popular uprising, saying that the "weakness" of this stand led the United States to pursue an Israeli biased policy in the Middle East.

Abu Dhabi-based Al Itihad newspaper, commenting on the subject editorially, pointed out that Shultz's Thursday night statement in occupied Palestine appears at first as if he is presenting something new ... but in reality it does not reflect anything specifically and does not forward a tangible proposal or plan.

"When Shultz calls for the importance of Palestinian participation in any Middle East peace process, he is ignoring the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)—the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people," the paper said.

The paper added that, when Shultz was talking about the Palestinian contribution in determining their future or achieving their legitimate rights, he was referring to old formulas killed by time — what is demanded today is not to determine the Palestinian future or their inalienable rights, these two expressions are meaningless, but it is "the right of the Palestinian people for self-determination," it added.

The paper affirmed that the current situation in occupied Palestine did not need words saying that it needed decisive action that should spend the brutal Israeli actions against the Palestinian people in occupied territories.

Commenting on Shultz's statement in which he said he had a peace plan with viable success, the paper questioned whether Shultz knows that the success of his plan was linked to the US recognition of the right of the Palestinian people for self-determination and statehood.

Dubai-based Al Bayan newspaper, lashed out at the US administration's policy in the Middle East and called on it to pursue an even-handed policy towards the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"Achieving Arab cohesion and unifying their ranks is the only means to change American policy in the Middle East," the paper stressed.

SHAM-E-GHAZAL WITH JAGJIT & CHITRA SINGH



LIVE CONCERT

HILTON HOTEL, ON FRIDAY, 4TH MARCH '88
AT 6 P.M. PROMPT

Plans open at Hilton Hotel
RATES: KD. 5/-, 7/-, 10/- & 15 (Concert Only)
KD. 10/-, 12/-, 15/- & 20/- (Concert with Dinner)



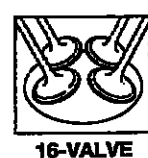
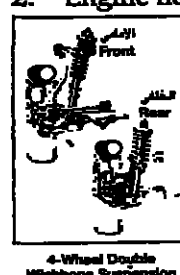
The perfect taste

IN COLLABORATION WITH:

BHASIN CO. W.L.L.

HONDA CIVIC '88 12 MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS

1. The Honda Civic '88 is now powered by a high performance 16-valve engine that distinguishes Honda Civic from other cars.
2. Engine horsepower increased.
3. New 4-wheel Double Wishbone Suspension system provides extra stability and smooth driving comfort.
4. The new Civic incorporates the latest technology in aerodynamic design.
5. The new Civic is bigger in size.
6. The new Civic has more room with classy interior design.
7. The new Civic has a new 4-speed automatic transmission.
8. The new Civic has speed responsive power steering.
9. The new Civic has an electric smoked-glass sunroof.
10. The new Civic has powered windows.
11. The new Civic has electrically adjusted door mirrors on each side.
12. The new Civic has central door locking facility.



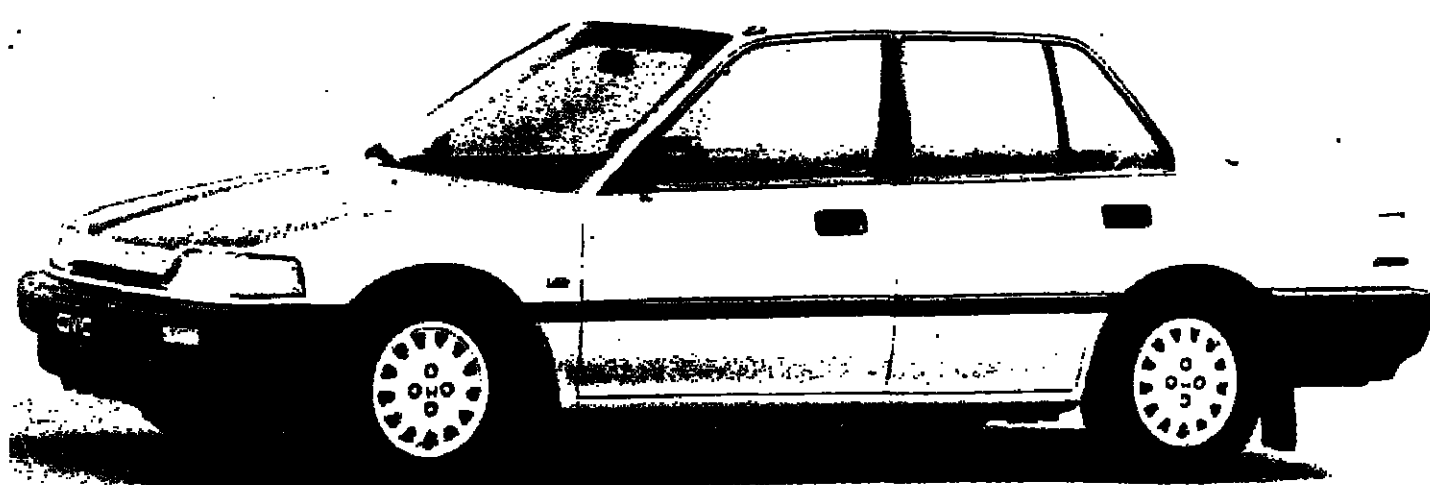
16-VALVE

With these new specifications, Honda Civic '88 moves into a class of its own. Come and see Honda Civic's 4-door Sedan and 2-door Hatchback at our Showrooms.

1
No. 1
IN U.S.A.



Trade-in facility available
Easy instalments offered



Agents: MUTAWA ALKAZI CO. LTD. Honda Products: Sharq, Hilal Street. Tel. 2416193, 2443799.
Honda: Sharq, Ahmed A' Jaber Street. Raid Center. Tel. 2458714.
Honda Service Centre: Tel. 4714888 Spare parts: Tel. 2428993

Bishara optimistic Gulf war will end soon

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27. (Kuna): The Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Abdullah Bishara said the Gulf states are determined not to allow international focus on the Iran-Iraq war to slip because otherwise the war will go on indefinitely.

Bishara, winding up five-days of high-level talks with Reagan administration officials and Congressmen, said he was greatly encouraged by the interest and determination he found here aimed at ending the war.

Bishara, speaking to a few Arab newsmen at the end of his talks, said he was still optimistic that the Iran-Iraq war will taper off by the end of 1988.

"No doubt there is international pressure and interest in ending the war. They all now realise that the tension and threats posed by the war cannot be allowed to continue," he emphasised.

The secretary-general, who will meet on Monday with the Secretary General of the United Nations Javier Peres de Cuellar, said part of this interest is due to



Abdullah Bishara the persistent and relentless efforts of the GCC states over the last year.

He also attributed this to the stable domestic front in the Gulf and the Arab consensus witnessed at the Arab summit conference in Amman late last year.

He said the GCC states have also intensified their contacts with Iran in recent months in an attempt at lessening tension.

"The Gulf states strongly believe that diplomacy is the right vehicle for the settlement of disputes ... we did not have to leave any misunderstandings that might snowball," he explained.

Bishara added, "I feel that these contacts, at the regional and international levels have helped in lessening the tension of the war."

Messages

One of the messages he carried to Washington, similar to those he will carry to other countries, including Britain on Tuesday, is that "Gulf stability cannot be complete unless the war comes to an end."

And the only way to do it, he emphasised, is through the implementation of Security Council resolution 598, "it is the right prescription," Bishara said.

The GCC secretary-general also affirmed the importance of maintaining the unity and unanimity of the members of the Security Council if progress is to be achieved. He said he was encouraged by the positions being adopted at the United Nations and elsewhere.

Kuwaiti relief aid for Lebanese distributed

BEIRUT, Feb. 27. (Kuna): As Kuwaiti relief aid worth some \$10 million began to be distributed to the needy Lebanese today, a senior Kuwaiti official was quoted here as stressing that the aid shipments stemmed from humanitarian and not political considerations.

"We came to Lebanon to hand over aid shipments not for political purposes," said Sheikh Mubarak Faisal Saud Al Sabah who is supervising the distribution of the Kuwaiti relief consignments.

Mubarak, who is representing HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Kuwait, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah, made the remarks in an interview published in the weekly magazine Al Shiraa.

Unicef

A shipment of stationary is designed to meet the requirements of no less than 900,000 students though the Lebanese government initially sought assistance for 500,000 students only, he added.

Mubarak noted that food and medical supplies as well as children's clothing have already reached

Lebanon via Syrian territories. Distribution is being handled by the Unicef office and the humanitarian Hariri foundation of the Lebanese-born Saudi businessman Rafiq Al Hariri.

Another Kuwaiti official was quoted by the same magazine as saying none of Lebanon's warring militias will have anything to do with the Kuwaiti assistance.

Ensured

The militias have their own resources and will by no means be involved in distribution of aid as the task is being handled by the Unicef and the Hariri foundation. Kuwait's ambassador to Damascus Ahmed Abdullaziz Al Jassim told Al Shiraa in an interview.

He stressed that Kuwait came up with the initiative after it ensured that the aid will go to the needy Lebanese.

The ambassador, responding to a question, said Kuwait was ready to mediate for a settlement of the Lebanese crisis if it were requested to do so. Kuwait, however, has thus far not been approached for the purpose, according to the ambassador.

UK steps up bid to sell minesweepers to Saudis

BAHRAIN, Feb. 27. (Reuters): Two Royal Navy minesweepers arrived at Saudi Arabia's Gulf port of Jubail today as part of British attempts to win a \$530-million contract for a fleet of the vessels.

Western diplomats said that if Britain won the deal in the face of intense foreign competition, it could open the door to business worth more than \$1.8 billion throughout the Gulf.

A British embassy spokesman in Riyadh said two of three Hunt-class minesweepers in the Gulf, the Bicester and Brecon, arrived in Jubail with the frigate HMS Boxer today.

During their three-day visit they will stage sea-going demonstrations for Saudi naval officials, he said. "We are interested in selling naval equipment to

the Saudi forces."

The Saudis are in the market for a fleet of eight ships to counter the threat of mines in the Gulf. Mines, suspected to have been laid by Iran in its tanker war against Iraq, killed ten seamen and destroyed two small supply ships in the waterway last year.

Britain wants to sell new Sandown-class vessels, priced at \$44 million each, to be produced by Vospers Thornycroft. They are due to be ready by mid-1989.

But it faces strong competition from Italy's Intermare Yard, which is building its own Lerici-class minehunters, and a French-Dutch-Belgian consortium.

"The Saudi contract will be a very big prize, with the possibility of selling two ships to each of the other Gulf states," one Western diplomat said.

Faculty for pharmacology

DR Abdullah Al Kharas, the Secretary-General of the Kuwait Pharmacology Society, said that a law for practising pharmacology in Kuwait is now being reviewed by the Council of Ministers and that studies to establish a new faculty for pharmacology in Kuwait will be completed soon.

At the society's General Assembly meeting on Saturday, the Chairman Dr Mohammed Al Nukhalan emphasised that pharmacologists must be given treatment equal to other medical professionals. He added that a delegation would soon meet the new Health Minister Dr Abdul Razzak Al Abdul Razzak to discuss the concerns of the society and to request that needed changes be made in an attempt to improve the status of pharmacists.

Yemeni stand praised

SANA'A, Feb. 27. (Kuna): Kuwaiti Ambassador here Mousa Al Mousa said Kuwait's or any Arab country's achievements are in the benefit of all Arabs and Kuwait's National Day is a day for the Arab nation. In statements to local weekly newspaper "September 26" published here today, Al Mousa expressed appreciation for the fraternal stands of the Yemen Arab Republic towards all issues which Kuwait encounter.

Kuwait government and people are proud of Yemen's achievements under the Sept 26 Revolution and highly estimate the faithfulness of Yemeni citizens in enhancing their country's march of progress.

Charity bazaar

THE Asmaa Bint Abi Bakr Centre for Adult Education held a charity bazaar last week with proceeds given in support of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories. The bazaar, the first of its kind to be held by the centre, was supervised by the Headmistress Mudhi Al Ameri.

OBITUARY

ANTONIO PIEDADE FERNANDES
(Ex-KAC employee)
Expired on 27th Feb, 1988 in Kuwait.
Beloved husband of Espesiosa, father of Socorima, Claret & Lydia, father-in-law of Agnelo Rebello.
Funeral on 1st March at 3.30 pm at Holy Family Cathedral.
(Relatives & friends, please accept this as the only intimation)

FLATS IN BANGALORE
Do not miss this opportunity
★ ★ ONLY A FEW REMAIN ★ ★
Flats in Bangalore "Indragiri" ready for possession and also under construction.
Deal negotiable according to your budget
— cash or easy instalments.
Contact: Mr. George D'Almeida
Administrator
Dar Al-Shifa Hospital (Dr. Khan's Hospital)
SHARQ-KUWAIT
Telephone: 5656622 (after 9pm)
2421168

Dame Violet: a name linked with Kuwait's modern history

THE name of Dame Violet Dickson is linked with Kuwait's modern history.

Dame Violet, popularly known as Umm Saud, is the wife of the late Harold Dickson, who came to Kuwait at the head of a British oil prospecting mission in 1929.

In an interview with a local newspaper, she spoke about those early days.

She said that her husband saw a pretty girl rising from a grave in a dream. This dream was interpreted by a bedouin girl as the discovery of oil in Kuwait.

Dame Violet was born in Lancashire, England, on Sept. 15, 1896. She was married in 1920 and her husband died in 1959.

She was 33 years old when she came to Kuwait for the first time and has never left Kuwait since.

She said everybody in Kuwait knows her but she was not known in England. She attributed this to the inherent goodness of Kuwaitis, and said this is shown by their generosity, courage and sincerity. She said people at that time worked hard



Dame Violet Dickson

in hand for the sake of the country.

Describing Kuwait at the time she came, she said it was a simple country with mud houses, but she found it a paradise because people lived with the spirit of one family and this was not the case in any other country.

She has two children: a son Saud and a daughter Zahra. She said her son originally had the name "Earlington", but when

they were in Saudi Arabia the people found it difficult to pronounce this name. King Saud has suggested calling him "Saud", she added.

She said the old house where she stayed in reminded her of the days spent with her husband, and was part and parcel of her life.

She remembered with her husband along the coast and was impressed by the Kuwaitis who came to bid farewell to their sons who were going diving. She still remembered their joy when their sons came back from the voyage.

Campaign

She said she took part in the campaign against the locust swarms that invaded Kuwait in 1929-31, and she participated in the vaccination campaign against smallpox in 1932. She said she was fond of Arabic coffee and dates adding that she and her husband would have them when visiting bedouins.

She said she had discovered a unique type of flower in Kuwait and presented it to the National Museum.

Italian foreign minister arrives in Riyadh for talks

RIYADH, Feb. 27. (Agencies): Visiting Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti met here today with Saudi Crown Prince and First Deputy Premier, Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz.

No details are available on the issues discussed at the meeting, which was attended by Saudi Foreign Minister, Prince Saud Al Faisal.

Andreotti arrived from Damascus today on the second leg of a Middle East tour to discuss regional problems, including the 7-year-old Iran-Iraq war.

Andreotti, who will spend two days in the kingdom, was welcomed by his Saudi counterpart, Prince Saud Al Faisal.

In a departure statement before leaving Damascus, Andreotti said he discussed the full range of Middle East crises with Syrian President Hafez Assad and Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa.

He said he would report back to other European leaders on his talks.

Interested

Andreotti also met with Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam.

The Italian minister said the members of the European community are vitally interested in a settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

His talks in Syria indicated the

"healthy situation between two friendly countries" he said, adding that Syria and Italy would work to further improve relations.

After two days of official talks with Syrian leaders Wednesday and Thursday Andreotti spent a day sightseeing at the ancient city of Palmyra, 200 miles northeast of Damascus.

Andreotti's tour followed talks in Rome between Italian officials and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

It coincides with a tour of the region by US Secretary of State George P. Shultz in a fresh quest for a Middle East peace settlement.

Oil tanker rescues 13 from sinking dhow

MANAMA, Feb. 27. (AP): A dhow apparently buffeted by choppy waters sank in the Arabian Sea today but 13 persons aboard were rescued by a passing oil tanker, maritime salvage executives reported.

The executives said that a Liberian-registered tanker, the 38,602-ton Diyyinah, first put out a distress signal at 4.25 pm local time (12.25 GMT) reporting that the dhow was sinking and gave its location roughly about 60 miles (96 kms) southeast of the Omani capital of Muscat.

The Diyyinah was overheard shouting "Any Navy warship assistance would be appreciated," according to the executives who spoke on condition they not be named.

About an hour later, the Omani Coast Guard issued another radio signal reporting that the Diyyinah had rescued the 13 persons but that the 20-metre-long (yard) vessel was sinking.

The Omani report said the sinking vessel posed "a navigation hazard" and called on passing ships to stay clear of the designated area.

The shipping executives said that the danger would be over once the dhow completed sinking as it was in a deep water area. No one had any immediate reason for the incident, but the executives believed that the dhow was victim of turbulent waters in the area.

Oman, Tunisia exchange accord

MUSCAT, Feb. 27. (Kuna): Ratified documents of a cultural, educational and technical agreement between the sultanate and Tunisia were exchanged at the premises of the Ministry of Education and Youth.

The Undersecretary for Education Affairs Saoud Bin Ibrahim Al Ousaidi received the copies of the agreement on behalf of the sultanate's government. From the Tunisian side it was received by the Tunisian Ambassador to the Sultanate Mohammed Al Yaseer.

Western navies in the Gulf to stay: Mellor

(Continued from Page 1)

"The situation in the Gulf is calmer now," he said, "and I believe the presence of the Western Navies is a key element in this more promising situation."

Mellor had extensive talks with the Iraqi officials about the prospects of a UN arms embargo on Iran.

"The British government has taken a leading role in co-ordinating the work of the Security Council in this matter and we believe it is time to tighten the screws on Iran to ensure compliance with resolution 598. I am confident that an embargo will be arranged within the next few weeks," Mellor said.

"This will help to stop the war. To be realistic, it won't stop it, but anything which makes it more difficult for Iran to get arms will inhibit the war."

Congratulations

It will show that the world community will not be deflected from the task of bringing this war to an end," he added.

Asked whether he thought that the arms embargo would be enforceable, Mellor replied that Moscow had already agreed to speed up work on implementing

the embargo. Questioned about China's commitment, Mellor said carefully: "The missiles which landed in Kuwait came from China. We hope they will agree to the embargo and then cease to supply arms to Iran and live up to their UN obligations."

Mellor announced the opening of a £75 million line of credit to the Iraqi government for pharmaceutical products and said that a further £100 million line of credit for general products was due to come into force in the very near future.

Mellor conveyed the British government's congratulations to Kuwait on the occasion of the 27th National Day and said that he was filled with admiration for the way the country had come through a very difficult year.

He reiterated UK's commitment to Kuwait.

Later Mellor arrived in Bahrain and held talks with the Amir Sheikh Issa Bin Salman.

From Bahrain Mellor will go to Amman for talks with the Jordanian government.

Ban on private tuition not to be lifted

DR YAOUB Al Sharrar, the Assistant Undersecretary for Private Education at Kuwait's Education Ministry, said the ministry's decision to ban private tuition at institutes was intended to eliminate the problem of these institutes taking advantage of parents of students. He added that the ban would not be lifted.

Al Sharrar explained that the ministry did allow private schools to offer special courses for students who needed additional help in understanding certain subject matter. He said that the ministry will not reconsider the issue and that complaints from students, parents and institute owners would be disregarded.

Interested in a U.K. degree in Engineering or Computing?

Kuwait English School will prepare you for study at the University of Reading, U.K. The first year of the 4-year B.Sc. Course is taken in Kuwait and is available for students who are highly successful in Tawgehee or semester courses.

An Open Evening is to be held at Kuwait English School on:

Wednesday, 2nd March, 1988 6.30 - 9.00 pm
For further details, visit Kuwait English School or telephone 5629356/5655216 or 5625840.



ANNOUNCEMENT

The Department of Civil Engineering of Kuwait University is pleased to invite engineers and researchers to a lecture titled:

"Effect of Bi-moment on the Analysis and Stability of Thin-walled Structural Members"

Speaker: Dr Hany A. El Ghazali
Assistant Professor
Civil Engineering Department
Kuwait University

Date: Monday, 29th February 1988

Time: 6:30 pm
Place: Kuwait University Faculty Club

Gulf Pearl Exchange Co.

Welcomes customers to its offices in Nagra.

Provides all financial services at very reasonable rates.

Al Mulla Trade Centre, beside Al Suwan company, Nagra, Ibn Khaldoun St.,
Tel. 2661100/2619052.

Arab Times REQUIRES

An English language

PROOF-READER

With impeccable spelling and grammar.

Please call 4813586 ext 255, only between 11 am - 5 pm for an appointment

No interview will be given without an appointment.

Those interviewed previously need not apply again.

WHAT'S ON

THEATRE

ACT
ACT presents "An Evening of Absurdity" from March 7 to 10 at 8 pm at the Mousetrap Theatre, New English School, featuring two absurdly comic one-act plays, *The Bald Sorcerer* by Eugene Ionesco and *The America Dream* by Edward Albee. A special discount will be given for all opening-night tickets. For reservations ring 5639204/5620332/5725071.

Kuwait Players
"Antidote," a fast moving revue of comedy sketches and songs will be presented by Kuwait Players from May 9. Auditions will be held at Messilah Beach Hotel on Feb 28 and March 1, 7.30 to 9.30 pm. For any queries contact Paul—Tel: 5611546.

Kuwait Little Theatre
KLT will perform the *Vicar of Wakefield*, an amusing tale by Oliver Goldsmith in March. Gala evening on March 14 at 7.30 pm. Repeat performances on March 15, 16 and 17 at 8.15 pm. For reservations ring 3983724.

SOCIAL

Swedish Ladies

Get-together
The next coffee afternoon will be held on March 1, Tuesday, from 4 pm at the residence of Mrs Britt-Marie Bonnan.

Mina Bazaar

A Mina Bazaar will be held on March 4 at the EPI ground, Sulaibikhat, to mark the Independence Day of Bangladesh. A cricket match between Bangladesh Reds and Bangladesh Greens will also be held. All are welcome.

General Meeting

ACT will hold their Annual General Meeting on Monday (Feb 29), 7.30 pm, at Mousetrap Theatre, NES. Sneak preview of current production "An Evening of Absurdity." Newcomers and everybody interested in ACT encouraged to attend AGM. For details phone 5620332/5725071.

Ladies Tea Party

The International Ladies Tea Party will hold a fancy dress competition at their next meeting on March 2 at the Kuwait Plaza Hotel. A karate expert will demonstrate self-defence techniques. For participating contact 5317390/5366297.

Flightriders

If your child is BA flightrider member and has not received invitation to Flightrider Party on March 3 contact 2413868 or 2425496.

Kuwait Irish Society

St Patrick's Day celebration on March 17 at the Holiday Inn Hotel. If interested contact — 5621701/5622701, 8 am to 2 pm or 5624175 after 2 pm.

Daniella

Daniella, a Danish group, invites all Danes to a coffee morning in Kuwait Towers from 9.30 am on March 6. For details contact Marianne 3948953 or Ingelise — 3903464.

Ghazal Singers

Well-known Indian ghazal singers Jagjit and Chitra Singh will give a concert on March 4, Friday, at the Kuwait Hilton. Tickets on sale at the hotel.

Photography Contest

Kapilku has extended the deadline for the Photography Contest. All entries must be submitted on or before March 31. Entrants must state the Kapilku ID number on all entries. The entries will be judged on April 7. Winning entries will be displayed at an exhibition hall (venue will be announced later). For further details contact 4877793.

Kuwait Welsh Society

Annual St David's Day dinner at Messilah Beach Hotel on Tuesday, March 1. Singer Doreen Lewis will provide entertainment. For tickets and further details phone 4874548/3910875/3912384.

SPORTS

Rat Race

Rat Race 1988 entry forms and rules are now available from the Messilah Beach Hotel. First captain's meeting at MBH, Al Foz Suite, on March 1, 6.30 pm. For further details contact the hotel, ext. 712/751/705.

Ladies Sports Club

Application forms are available from the Ras Al Ardh Sea Club for the proposed Ladies Sports club. The club is open from 9 am to 12 noon and 5 to 7 pm. Tel: 5740670.

PRAYERS

Fajr	4.56 am
Zuhr	12.00
Asr	3.19 pm
Maghreb	5.47
Isha	7.03

GOING PLACES

Promoting India

PEOPLE in the Gulf are not really aware of what India has to offer as a tourist destination, according to Lalita Dasgupta, a senior travel agent who recently visited Kuwait on a tourism promotion project run by the India Tourist Office.

She had come to Kuwait to promote India as a tourist destination.

"India is close to Kuwait, yet people go to Europe for their holidays. India is familiar, but generally forgotten about. Perhaps Arabs have chosen to go to Europe because it is a novelty, or because they didn't feel wanted. India has a very strong tradition of hospitality, however, and we are trying to educate people in Kuwait about the advantages of India as a tourist destination."

India has a wide range of attractions, from coastlines to mountains, from ancient tem-

ples to wildlife. "We can cater both to high and low budgets," she said. "We have resorts for skiing and surfing, or else for budget tours. A tour package can be made up especially to suit a client's interest and pocket."

In the past most tourists have visited the Delhi and Bombay regions, but places like Kashmir also have a great deal to offer.

"In June, July and August the rest of India has monsoons, but not Kashmir. Here it is possible to stay on luxurious houseboats, and to pick up car-

pets and knickknacks cheaply. "It's wonderful, affordable and very restful," says Lalita.

In terms of cost, a holiday in India is quite cheap, a further advantage that is apparently overlooked.

The regional director of the India Tourist Office A N Chaturvedi stresses that the accommodation in India is excellent. "We have all the major hotel chains and there are also palaces which have been turned into hotels. This is again an experience which the traveller could not find anywhere else in the world."

GS



Lalita Dasgupta.

Mitwali's dream project

LONDON, (Kuma): Egyptian businessman Fawzi Mitwali is in London to seek permission to stage an opera for charity in Buckingham Palace grounds. Reportedly, he has sought an audience with Britain's Queen Elizabeth to talk to her about his "dream project."

"If she (Queen) says 'yes' I'll be there the next day," Mitwali told the Press Association of UK.

Palace sources have however, ruled out the possibility of staging an opera in the Buckingham Palace. Yet, Mitwali is confident and said: "People would come from all over the world. It would be very successful." The money, he said, would be donated for AIDS research and children's charities.

Mitwali last year staged Verdi's opera, *Aida*, in the ancient temple of Luxor, Egypt.

Mitwali is now in Paris arranging the opening of two opera performances at the Versailles Palace. They will be staged from July 15 to 30 next year to coincide with the 200th anniversary of the French Revolution. The proposed project costs \$10 million.

Mitwali, who lives in Vienna, is planning to hold similar large scale events in the Austrian capital Mozart's music. He also wants to take his much publicised productions to the Kremlin.



URDU poetry seems to be thriving in Kuwait judging from the large number of poets who participated in a Mushaira (an evening of poetry) held at the residence of Mr Baqar. About 30 poets recited ghazals and verse at the well-attended mushaira held on Thursday night.

More than 100 people attended the mushaira, which lasted well past midnight, and heard leading Urdu poets of Kuwait. Among them were

Poetry recital

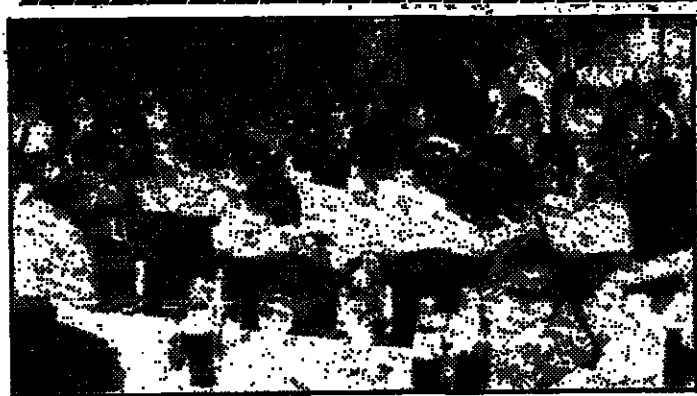
Ashraf Shad, Shahid Raddami, Baqi Ahmad Puri, Mehshar Afghani, Niaz Banarsi, Hameed Hosh, Noor Parkar, Wafa Sabri, Musarrat Zeba and Farid Quasbi.

Arab Times Urdu Editor Ashraf Shad presided over

the mushaira, which was attended by noted local Indian and Pakistani Urdu literary figures. A well-known writer Bakhtiar Malik spoke about the role of poets and writers in modern day society. Chief guest M.D. Khan also gave a talk on Urdu literature. The programme was compared by Ghulam Mustafa Bekas. Pictured above are some poets reciting ghazals at the Mushaira, which was organised by Imtiaz Ilyes.

Annual party

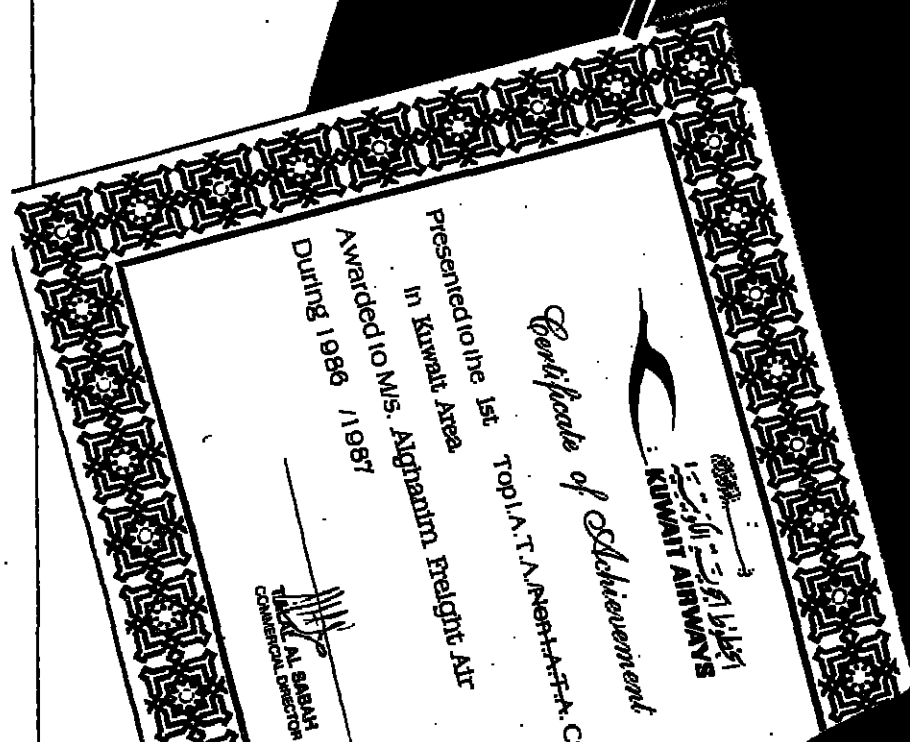
KUWAIT Hilton employees recently received awards for five, 10, 15 and 20 years of service at the hotel. A total of 75 employees received the awards from the hotel's General Manager Klaus Martensen. More than 350 Hilton employees and their families attended the annual staff party held in the Ballroom. The guests were treated to dinner followed by entertainment provided by the hotel staff and the resident band, The Magnetic Band.



Some of the guests at the annual party.

For the fourth consecutive year...

Thank you!



Alghanim

Sea-Freight-Air
Packing

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

- 2.15 Holy Quran
- 2.30 World News Via Satellite
- 3.30 Ibtal Al Ma'laeb: cartoons
- 4.00 News Summary
- 4.05 Magazine D'Actualite
- 4.25 Ghadab Al Sahara: part one of new serial; starring Abdul Rahman Al Rish, Sahar Rami, Talhath Hamdi
- 5.30 Al Manahil: children's serial, featuring Amal Dabbas, Tayseer Attiya, Rabe'a Shihab
- 6.00 Songs and Music
- 7.00 News Summary
- 7.05 Documentary
- 7.30 Diwanat Shuara Al Nabt: poetry session
- 8.15 Good Evening and Local News
- 9.00 News in Arabic
- 9.50 Surag Al Simt: part 2; Arabic serial.
- 10.50 Variety Show: featuring the Jordanian folklore troupe which took part in the 1987 Jerash Festival
- 11.50 News Summary
- 11.55 World News Via Satellite
- 12.30 Holy Quran/Close down

KTV 2

- 6.00 Holy Quran
- 6.10 The Lone Ranger: "The Ghost Wagon." Is there such a thing as the

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Istiqbal Pharmacy
Safat Square
Al Kawther Pharmacy
Opp. Police Stn., Abdullah Al Mubarak St.
Hawalli and Nagra
Al Shamsan Pharmacy
Ibn Khaldoun St.
Salamiya and Rumaythiya
Al Maidan Pharmacy
Off Baghdad St.
Fahad and Ahmed
Al Khaleej Pharmacy
Mujamma St., Fheel
Jleeb Al Shiyoohk
Wahran Pharmacy
Souk St.
Jahra
Al Zahra Pharmacy
New Market

"Ghost Wagon"? The Lone Ranger examines the myth.
6.30 Butterfly Island: "Quarantine." A group of visitors have food poisoning and are treated by a nurse living on the island.
7.00 Understanding Islam: a weekly local show on Islam.
7.30 The Wacky World of Sports: a wacky look at sporting events.
8.00 News in English
8.40 Hot Shots: "The Family Jules." A woman, the owner of a newsmagazine, is forced to sell her

property to a black-mailer, who dies in mysterious circumstances. Amanda and Jack investigate.
9.30 Foley Square: "Judgement Call." Alex is invited by a judge to spend a weekend at a castle.
10.00 Q.E.D.: documentary
10.30 Best-Seller
12.00 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

CINEMA TODAY

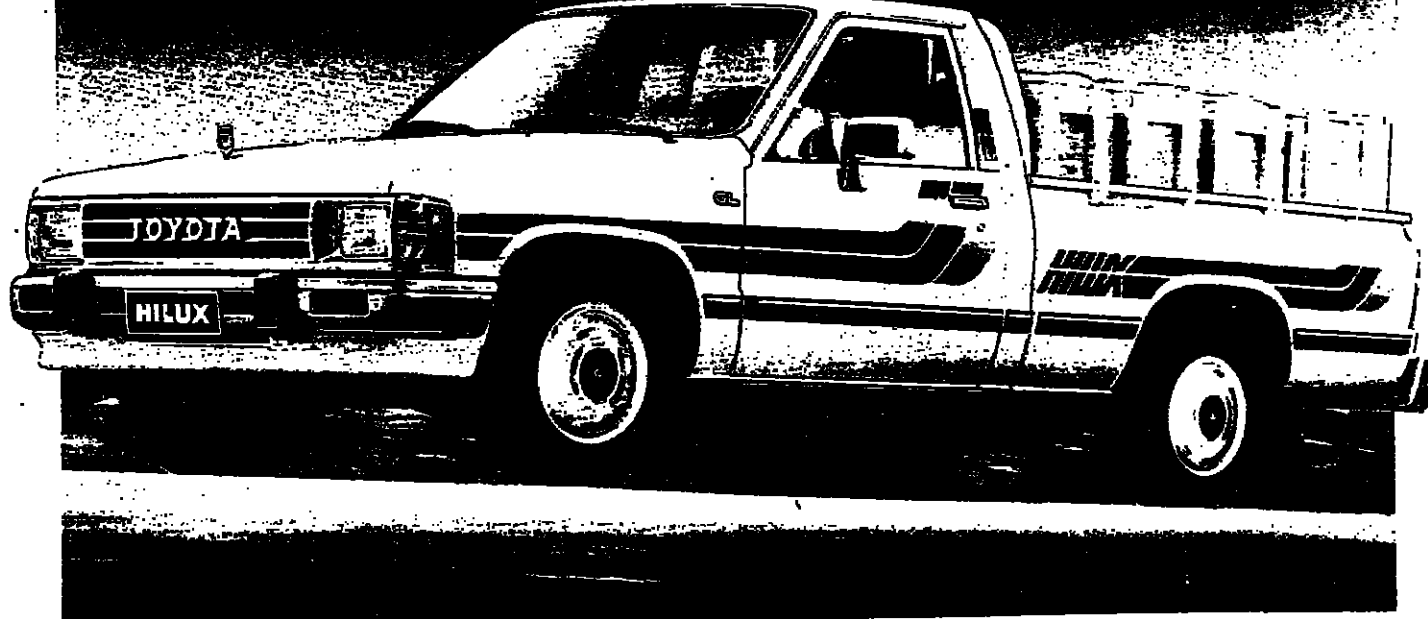
Al Andalus
The Living Daylights
Starring: Timothy Dalton
Al Sahniya
Legal Eagle
Starring: Robert Redford
Al Hamra
Al Nimr Wal Unsa (Arabic)
Starring: Adel Imam, Athar Al Hakim
Drive-In
Al Maf'oub (Arabic)
Starring: Mahmoud Yaseen, Imaan.
Al Fahad
Idanazhiyl Oru Kalochu (Malayalam)
Al Jahra
Anjaam (Hindi)

Al Firdous
Naya Zamana (Hindi)
Starring: Dharmendra, Hema Malini
Fahad Open-Air
Shahenshah (Hindi)
Starring: Amitabh Bachchan, Meenakshi Seshadri
Granada
Mama (Hindi)
Starring: Suchitra Sen, Ashok Kumar
Salaibikhat
Down and Out in Beverly Hills
Al Jleeb
Jalakam (Malayalam)
Ahmadi Drive-In
Tarzan and His Mate



HILUX GOES SPORTY
WITH HIGHSPEED
POWER FOR 1988.

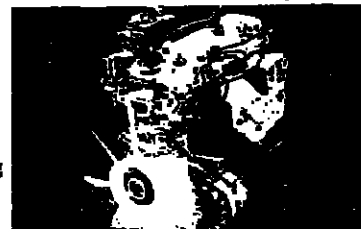
UNBEATABLE QUALITY



POWER TO SPARE

HILUX is one truck that's tough on the job and comfortable on the highway.

Because HILUX is built with the powerful 2000cc engine. And that gives you the best combination of a comfortable ride, muscular power and giant loading capacity.



NEW SPORTY FEELING

Never has such a truck-like vehicle been so sporty in look and feel.

If you want a powerful truck with all the comforts of a passenger car, then HILUX is the one for you. So great for city cruising and high-spirited trailing off-road.

NEW '88 HILUX

Committed to quality always

TOYOTA



EXCLUSIVE DISTRIBUTORS

Mohamed Naser Al-Sayer & Sons Est.

Al-Rai, 4th Ring Road, Tel: 4713622 (10 Lines)

Showrooms: Al-Rai Tel: 4714348, Al-Ahmadi Tel: 3981525



EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

A CHEERFUL friend is like a sunny day, spreading brightness all around — Sir John Lubbock, English astronomer-mathematician (1803-1865).

Parliamentary elections

Fear and apathy pervade Bangladesh

By Anis Ahmed

DHAKA. (Reuters): An uneasy mixture of fear, defiance and apathy pervades Bangladesh in the run up to next week's parliamentary elections.

Violence during elections for village councils two weeks ago, in which more than 150 people were killed and 8,000 injured, has scared some people from campaigning.

Major opposition groups have said they will boycott the poll on Thursday and called a general strike to disrupt it.

Others say the election is meaningless.

"It's going to be such a non-election. Who is going to be convinced (of its outcome)?" a diplomat asked.

Bangladesh, whose population is 107 million has seen no real campaigning. But President Hossain Mohammad Ershad is determined to go ahead with the March 3 poll because he thinks the country will plunge into a constitutional crisis without it.

Ershad called the election after dissolving the Jatiya Sangsad or National Assembly last December in an attempt to thwart an increasing opposition challenge to his six-year rule.

Killed

The political situation has since worsened, with nearly 60 people killed in clashes between police and opposition activists between November and January.

On Tuesday, an independent candidate in next week's poll was shot dead and 10 of his political workers were wounded at a campaign rally in the south-west of the country.

The bloodbath in the rural polls earlier this month has so scared people that there is virtually no electioneering in the villages.

Even in Dhaka, the bustling capital of four million, only some graffiti and a few posters remind people they are expected to exercise their right to vote soon.

Turnout

"The vote is useless because it doesn't reflect people's opinion or elect their true representatives," said Shahidul Haq, a villager in Narsingdi district near Dhaka.

"Those who have muscle power or official backing will win the elections. People virtually have no role to play," said an official working with a rural development project.

The official, who did not wish to be identified, said he acted as a polling officer in the May 1986 parliamentary elections won by Ershad but denounced as fraudulent by the opposition.

"The turnout was less than 10

per cent. But we had to say more than 60 per cent of voters turned up and the voting was honest," he said.

"Sometimes your life is at risk," he added, referring to the beheading of two election officers during the rural polls.

Government sources said many teachers and officials had refused to act as election officers despite a promise by Home Minister Mohammad Abdul Matin that adequate security would be provided.

Disrupt

Ershad has said the Army will be deployed to help nearly 100,000 paramilitary police and auxiliary forces ensure peaceful voting, despite the opposition call for a 36-hour general strike from March 2.

The twenty-one opposition groups boycotting the elections said the strike was intended to "save government lackeys from the people's wrath and help them stuff ballots in a voteless poll."

Nearly half the 76 fringe groups in the Combined Opposition Party (COP), which is contesting the elections, have revolted against their leader, A.S.M. Abdur Rab, an associate of Ershad.

"We may join the anti-election forces and try to disrupt the farcical elections where paid agents of the government will play a dominant role," one dissident leader said.

Dhaka University teacher Shamsul Islam said: "I hate talking politics. My impression is that both the government and opposition leaders are vultures feeding on the rotting carcass of democracy."

Shopkeeper Abdul Barez said the election means "squandering of public money and trying to bluff the people."

The 16-year history of Bangladesh, formerly East Pakistan, is marked by violence and instability.

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who became the country's first President after the 1971 Indo-Pakistan war which led to its independence was killed in a military coup in 1975.

In May 1981, soldier-turned-civilian President Ziaur Rahman was assassinated in another coup.

His death paved the way for his Vice-President Justice Abdus Sattar to become the President and he formalised himself as an elected leader through a national vote in November 1981.

But Sattar's rule was cut short by Ershad who ousted him in a bloodless coup in March 1982.

Since then Ershad, a 57-year-old former general, has steadily consolidated his power.

have refused to meet Shultz. US officials refuse to meet PLO members.

In the past week, anti-Shultz slogans have been a battle cry for some throwing youths.

Paper signs stuck to United Nations vans in Gaza by Palestinians referred to Shultz as a "Jewish dog."

Enemy

"The enemy here is America, not Israel," said one young Palestinian. "Boots, bullets, uniforms — everything Israeli is from America."

Children show reporters empty tear gas canisters that have labels showing they were made at Federal Laboratories Inc. in Pennsylvania.

After similar canisters blasted through the window of a maternity ward in Ramallah hospital a week ago, a nurse bitterly asked an American journalist: "This tear gas, where does it come from? Reagan is very bad. He should die."

Many Palestinians say they are not against the United States, but only against its policy. They like Americans, they say, but just don't like US leaders.

Many of the stone-throwers wear American-style jeans and sneakers, and some have relatives living in the United States.

A hotel owner in Ramallah, after decrying US policy, proudly displayed a picture of his son in his graduation gown at Chicago University.

Evangelists seek presidency

American fundamentalism hits the headlines

WASHINGTON: For some years, whenever the word "fundamentalism" was mentioned, it conjured up the name of the Ayatollah Khomeini and fears that his militant Islamic revolution would spill across Iran's frontiers and deluge the Middle East.

Currently, though, it is American fundamentalism, a much tamer brand, that is in the headlines. The reason is that two fundamentalist preachers, Jesse Jackson and Pat Robertson, are competing vigorously for the nomination to the American presidency.

American and Islamic fundamentalists do not have much in common except the struggle against the modern world view, modern habits, urbanisation, industrialisation and the need to revive faith in religion.

Differ

However, they differ sharply on how to achieve their goals. American fundamentalists rely on peaceful persuasion, discipline, the power of prayers and the democratic political process to spread their gospel.

Never before in American history have two prominent evangelists sought to contest the presidential nomination in opposition to each other and at the same time. Jesse Jackson is a liberal Democrat. Pat Robertson is a right-wing Republican.

Since Americans generally believe in the separation of state and church, many are asking what is causing the nation-wide resurgence of fundamentalism and what leads them to dare enter national politics. The reason, I believe, is a widespread concern, especially among the lower middle-classes in the rural south, about the impoverishment of what they consider spiritual virtues and private morality, about the disintegration of family life, the rising crime rate and sexual permissiveness.

Ironically, two of the most popular and powerful evangelists have recently been forced to

confess to have committed adultery, yet it does not seem to have influenced the true believers of the faith.

Jimmy Swaggart, the latest among television evangelists to have tearfully admitted immoral conduct with a woman presided over a \$150 million television broadcast network which reached an estimated 9 million viewers in the United States. Only last week 40,000 came to hear him speak during a rally in Nicaragua. One of Swaggart's friends said recently that his behaviour "will break God's heart," yet his followers are unlikely to abandon his church or his teachings.

Jackson and Robertson represent two very different basic trends among fundamentalists. Jackson favours a kind of social populism with the government assuming most of the responsibilities for the welfare of the nation and individuals.

He does not reject, as does Robertson, such forces of modernity as science, sociology and psychology, but he too preaches the virtues of thrift, discipline, sobriety and religious faith, his foreign policy concerns relate primarily to the underdeveloped world and to defusing the confrontational approach.

Committed

Robertson is a deeply committed right-wing conservative, a fervent anti-communist who says that he aims at liberating Russia from communism. He favours President Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative and aid to the Contras in Nicaragua and he is against the intermediate-range Missile Treaty now awaiting ratification by the US Senate.

He is not particularly worried about the huge American budget deficit, which, he is convinced, God will take care of, he even believes that every 50 years, during the year of jubilee people should cancel every outstanding debt set out in the Bible. He is, of course, against abortion and in favour of prayers in schools, two

Inside Washington

By Henry Brandon



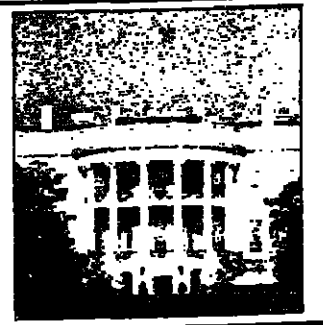
Pat Robertson

hotly contested issues in the elections.

Jackson, who is black, seeks to appeal to both blacks and whites. "Fifteen per cent of our nation is now in poverty," he intones with his voice soaring, "this means thirty four million people, 23 million white and 11 million black and brown."

Then his voice dips to a guttural, but dramatic sounding whisper. "This is beyond race. Don't colour poverty black, white or brown. When a baby cries at midnight because it has no supper, that baby doesn't cry in black or white or brown." Jackson is indeed gaining supporters among whites as well, but his power base is the growing support he is gaining among blacks. Robertson can get equally emotional, especially when he speaks to church audiences.

But knowing that Americans tend to be suspicious of evangelists, especially those who dabble



Jesse Jackson

in politics, he wants people to forget that he used to be a television evangelist. He refers to himself therefore as a "Christian businessman," a reminder that he administers a huge religious business empire.

Since some fifty million Americans consider themselves fundamentalists and since a majority of them live in the south, the so-called Bible belt, the Super-Tuesday primary on March 8 when twenty southern states will go to the polls, the influence of these two fundamentalist candidates on the electoral process must not be underrated.

I asked Peter Hart, the opinion pollster, how great an influence they are likely to have on the elections, but he shrugged his shoulders, saying that he did not have an answer to this question because fundamentalists in the past did not vote, they are not a united group and many may not vote for one of the two evangelists, but for a traditional can-

didate. However, if they attract many voters they will be able to weaken other candidates. Jackson, for instance, could weaken Al Gore by taking much of the black vote from him and thus strengthen Gephardt or vice-versa.

After Super-Tuesday's vote we may well know who will become the Republican presidential candidate because whoever wins decisively in the south will gain momentum in the remaining primaries in the Middle West and west, but the Democratic vote is likely to be divided among three candidates, leaving everybody in suspense about the Democrats' choice. With about one-third of the delegates to the convention at stake on Super-Tuesday, all eyes will be on the outcome on March 8.

Domestic

As usual domestic issues have been dominating the primary races so far with taxes and the budget and trade deficits highest on the list. One, and it is a potent one politically, has a domestic as well as a foreign side to it: trade protectionism.

Richard Gephardt has made it the central issue of his campaign and it has served him among the most frequently discussed foreign policy issues are the future of Soviet-American relations, arms control negotiations, aid to the Contras in Nicaragua, the American role in the Gulf and President Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative, a kind of safety net against incoming missiles in space. One issue every candidate is avoiding like AIDS, even though it hits the frontpages almost every day, is the unrest in Israel's West Bank and Gaza, the occupied territories.

It is particularly embarrassing to American Jews because of the means the Israeli government is deploying to suppress the demonstrations and because the issues at stake could seriously affect the long-range future of Israel. At any rate, it is increas-

gly evident that the status quo is becoming untenable and yet, with the Israeli government politically paralysed and the Palestinian demands hardening, it is difficult to see a viable basis for compromise.

It is also evident that the United States cannot continue to stay on the sidelines. Secretary of State George Shultz decided to go to Israel for three reasons: Firstly, because the United States is the only country that could possibly act as a mediator, in fact American domestic and world public opinion demand United States' intervention, secondly, there is a need to find out whether the Israeli government is becoming desperate enough to offer the kind of concessions that could open the door to negotiations and, thirdly, there is the possibility that the Soviet Union would take advantage of the situation and involve itself as the lawyer for the Palestinians, something the United States and Israel want to avoid.

The situation facing Shultz is difficult enough if not insoluble, in addition, the secretary of state is not the skilled negotiator Henry Kissinger was and therefore gets quickly discouraged. It is also increasingly obvious that the situation has helped to unify the Palestinians and that there is hardly one left who is not a member of the PLO. Will the Israeli government recognise that fact and soften its refusal to negotiate with members of the PLO?

American officials here have little hope that the Israeli government or the Palestinians are at this state capable of making the kind of concessions that could lead to negotiations.

The former are afraid to negotiate from weakness and the Palestinians are too impressed by the success of their tactics. Nevertheless, the Reagan administration has come to realise that it must continue its search for a solution, whether it leads to progress or not.

Stakes high in Afghan poker game

By Hugh Pain

NEW DELHI. (Reuters): The longest-running poker game in town resumes in Geneva Wednesday, perhaps for the last time.

As usual, the two players will sit alone at separate tables, their cards marked in advance by the other, absent participants.

The stakes are high — an end to the war which has pitted Soviet and Afghan government troops against Western-backed rebel forces since Moscow's military intervention in Afghanistan in 1979.

The six-year-old Geneva "proximity" talks are between Afghan and Pakistani representatives, who never meet but communicate through United Nations mediators.

The talks offer no formal place to the Afghan rebels who carry on the war from their Pakistani supply bases, nor to the Soviet or the United States without whose arms and support the conflict could not continue.

But despite these absences, all sides now say they want an end to the fighting which has cost more than a million lives and exiled one third of Afghanistan's people.

Withdraw

Their most recent stated positions are as follows: ●The Soviet Union says it will withdraw its estimated 115,000 troops from Afghanistan beginning on May 15 and complete the pullout by March 1989, provided an agreement is signed in Geneva by March 15.

But it seeks a commitment from Pakistan to end supplies to the rebels, and wants the accord to be signed by its client government, the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA). ●Pakistan wants a broad-based transitional government.

representing the rebels, the five million Afghan refugees and the PDPA, to replace the current PDPA monopoly, before it will sign.

●The seven-party, Pakistan-based, mujahideen rebel alliance refuses any power-sharing with the PDPA. They say they are in the process of forming a 28-member coalition cabinet in which they will have 14 seats, exiled Afghans seven and Muslims now inside the country the remainder.

This interim government and not the PDPA, they insist, must sign any agreement reached in Geneva.

●The United States, after initial scepticism, is now convinced about Soviet intentions.

"They... regard their presence in Afghanistan as counter-productive and they would like to leave," said Secretary of State George Shultz this week.

Return

Shultz supported the idea of an interim government if it would encourage the Afghan refugees to return home.

But a US official said this week that Washington would oppose it if giving the Afghans time to set it up would delay a Geneva accord and allow Moscow to keep its troops in place.

●Afghanistan itself has offered a coalition under the PDPA's "national reconciliation" programme which commands some support inside the country but is rejected by all other parties except the Soviet Union.

Torpedo

●United Nations mediator Diego Cordovez, a negotiator noted for his optimism, says the gap between Islamabad and Kabul "has been closed to a point where I think a specific agreement at Geneva is clearly foreseeable."

But Cordovez has not publicly

addressed all the issues, and Reuter correspondents in the capitals concerned say these could still torpedo the Geneva talks.

In Washington, they say the Reagan administration is eager to see the Soviet troops out before the president steps down in January next year.

"Front-end loading" jargon for getting the bulk of them out in the first stages of the withdrawal — and satisfaction that the pullout is irreversible are Washington's price for ending its

aid to the rebels and pressuring Islamabad to sign in Geneva, say officials.

In Moscow, the Soviet Union appears ready to pull out even without a firm commitment from Pakistan to end supplies to the rebels.

But it still insists on the PDPA government signing the Geneva accord.

A Soviet spokesman last week referred to the demand for an interim government as "a very dangerous development" which could delay a solution.

Chad, Libya take advantage of truce

By Claude Regis

N'DJAMENA. (Reuters): Soldiers in battle gear riding in an assortment of military vehicles, including Soviet-made trucks captured from Libya, appear almost as numerous as civilians in the dusty streets of the Chadian capital.

French military aircraft on surveillance missions and huge transport planes taking arms and ammunition to northern and eastern Chad take off and land almost non-stop.

These are the most visible signs that this central African country is not lowering its guard despite a five-month truce with arch-enemy Libya, signed last September after the Chadian Army ended three years of Libyan military occupation of northern Chad.

Diplomats say both sides appear to hold out little hope that current diplomatic efforts to settle their territorial dispute over the border area known as the Aouzou Strip will bring lasting peace.

President Hissene Habre told a group of reporters last week that Libya was concentrating troops on its southern border with Chad and in the Sudanese province of Darfour where N'Djamena has reported sporadic skirmishes.

War

"Libya is preparing for war, not for peace," Habre added. He also quoted Libyan leader Moammar Khaddafi as saying recently that although his country had lost some battles, it had not lost the war.

"It is clear that despite humiliating military defeats our forces inflicted on Libya last year, Khaddafi has not given up his territorial claim on our country and we have to be ready at all times," a senior Chadian Army commander told Reuters.

Habre, a former guerrilla turned president, stunned the world when his relatively small Army swept away Libyan troops which had occupied most of northern Chad for the past three years.

But Chadian forces failed to

hold on to the Aouzou Strip, which diplomats say is bound to be the site of a major showdown.

Libya annexed the 110,000-sq-km (42,000 sq-mile) stretch of barren land in 1973 and Chad has said it will not give up sovereignty.

Fighting

After months of fierce fighting for control of the area, the two countries agreed to a truce to enable the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) to find a peaceful settlement.

"The OAU does not have a good record in settling African territorial disputes and this one may prove tougher than others," one Western diplomat commented, adding that the prestige of both Habre and Khaddafi was at stake.

A committee of experts and cartographers from six African countries has been examining tons of legal documents to decide whether Aouzou belongs to Chad or Libya.

Its findings will be made public at a meeting of the committee's six heads of state scheduled to take place in the Senegalese capital, Dakar, in April.

Both countries have said they will abide by the committee's findings but since there has to be a winner and a loser, the latter is unlikely to renounce its claim and bow out gracefully, diplomats say.

One Chadian source close to the government said the committee had suggested a partition, with the town of Aouzou staying in Libyan hands, a solution Chad regards as unacceptable.

"Our case is far more solid than Libya's but the OAU wants a political rather than legal settlement and some members of the committee, including Algeria, want to avoid humiliating Libya further," the source said.

With the dispute far from settled, Chad and Libya are bracing for yet another round of fighting.

Foreign intelligence sources say Habre is correct in saying that Libya has more than made up for the losses it suffered last year in both men and equipment.

Vassiliou raises settlement hopes

By Alex Ely

NICOSIA, Cyprus. (AP): The election of a new president who vows political flexibility, and a thaw in Greek-Turkish relations, have raised hopes for a settlement of the problem of this war-divided east Mediterranean island.

Political analysts and Western diplomats believe, however, that the prospects hinge more on an improvement in relations between Greece and Turkey, two Nato allies who hovered on the brink of war last year, than on a breakthrough in the political deadlock between Greek and Turkish Cypriots.

The Cyprus problem has long soured relations between Greece and Turkey, posing a potentially serious weakness in Nato's vulnerable southern flank.

The British have their biggest military bases outside the United Kingdom on Cyprus, and the island of 665,000 people has become a strategic Western outpost in the volatile eastern Mediterranean.

George Vassiliou, 56, a self-made millionaire, was elected Cyprus president for a five-year term Feb 21. He ran as an independent, with the powerful Communist Party his main backer, on a platform of "time for change."

Flexible

He vowed to be flexible and work for "quick results" to reunite Cyprus, partitioned since Turkey invaded in 1974 and occupied the northern one-third of the island.

As leader of the 500,000-strong Greek Cypriot majority, he has said he is prepared to meet with Rauf Denktaş, president of the breakaway Turkish Cypriot Republic proclaimed in the north in 1983, and recognised only by Turkey.

But he still faces a major task in overcoming deep distrust and military buildups on both sides. While Vassiliou, a political newcomer, has been widely viewed as more flexible than his predecessor, Spyros Kyprianou, he remains committed to the withdrawal from the north of some 30,000 troops and 50,000 settlers from the Turkish mainland, and to the return of 200,000 Greek Cypriot refugees.

Hints by the Turkish government that it might be prepared to pull out some of their troops in advance of any agreement as a goodwill gesture have fuelled hopes that some progress might be made this time around.

But whether that will satisfy the Greek Cypriots remains open to question. It is also not clear just what concessions Vassiliou is prepared to make.

Earlier negotiations under UN auspices have been

deadlocked for three years because of Kyprianou's hardline refusal to "even talk until the Greek Cypriots' demands, backed by UN resolutions, were met."

Ankara and Denktash have rejected these demands. They insist the troops are needed to protect the 120,000-strong Turkish Cypriot minority, outnumbered by more than 5-1 by Greek Cypriots.

Kyprianou had the rug pulled from under his feet two weeks before the election when Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu, who had refused to talk to Ankara for years, suddenly changed his mind.

Papandreu discussed a wide range of issues with Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal in the Swiss resort of Davos in late January in a summit hailed by both sides as a breakthrough.

It ended with a "no war" agreement between the two nations, and an announced determination to settle all outstanding differences peacefully.

Apart from the Cyprus problem, the main difference that has brought the two Nato allies close to war repeatedly in recent years is the issue of territorial waters and underwater oilfields in the Aegean Sea.

Greek Cypriots have pinned their hopes for a Turkish withdrawal from Cyprus on Athens. They have been led to believe that Greece would veto Turkey's application to join the European Economic Community if Ankara remained intransigent over Cyprus.

As a result, Papandreu's sudden diplomatic moves made Greek Cypriots nervous. Their anxiety increased after Athens newspapers charged that Papandreu had intervened behind the scenes to support Vassiliou against Kyprianou in the presidential race.

Greece and Turkey sought to patch together a settlement of the Cyprus problem in 1958 that laid the groundwork for independence from Britain two years later. Under that agreement, the island's constitution gave the Turkish Cypriot minority, 17 per cent of the population, equal political status with the Greek Cypriots.

The agreement also made Britain, Greece and Turkey guarantor powers with the right to intervene. The accord was widely seen by Greek Cypriots as sowing the seeds for Turkey's subsequent invasion on the pretext of protecting Turkish Cypriots after a short-lived coup by supporters of union with Greece.

How the Davos agreement will affect Cyprus has yet to emerge. But Vassiliou has declared that he intends to work closely with Athens.

مكتبة جامعة القاهرة

Martina: off court

By Judy Byrne

FORMIDABLE Martina Navratilova — one of tennis' greatest-ever women players — has taken up a new sport, scuba diving.

And she has taken to it like a champ to water.

Yet Martina, a brilliant natural athlete, could probably have made it to the top in a dozen sports.

It was scuba instructor Bert Kirchner who introduced Martina to diving, explaining: "She's a natural. She's taking it very seriously."

That's Martina. Dabbling is not her style. She paid for lessons for her long-time ladyfriend, Judy Nelson and her sons, Bale and Edward too.

On top of that she also forked out for underwater cameras all round.

For the hard-edged winner of the Centre Court is only one of Martina's many faces. There is also a glamorous, amusing and insecure side to her.

Tennis came on Navratilova's horizon when she was just three. Her parents divorced. Her mother, Jana, moved with her into a single room in her old childhood home — overlooking the tennis court.

Relic

The court was a relic of the family estate where a nanny had taken care of her mother. But these were changed times. A year later, Martina introduced her mother to a man who looked after the court, Miroslav Navratil. Two years later her step-father.

Martina's own mother had played tennis, but the pressure on her from her tennis-mad father soon soured the game for the young champion-to-be.

Miroslav insisted she practise and Martina remembers: "I never had to be pushed. I loved the game, especially at the net."

"My father would say 'let's go back and hit ground strokes' but hitting from the base line is boring to me. The net was more challenging."

Martina was just 11 when the Russian tanks rolled into Czechoslovakia. Two years later, she went to Germany for her first tournament abroad.

Most people see tennis ace Martina Navratilova as the hard-edged Queen of the Centre Court. But she also has a softer, caring side — and she is just as happy helping under-privileged children as winning million dollar tennis tournaments.

It made her more sensitive to her surroundings. She says: "When I came home, I began to notice how sad people were. They couldn't write or say what they wanted. To get a pair of shoes was a major accomplishment. People had to wait in line for potatoes and pay the butcher under the counter to get good meat."

In 1973, Martina now an American millionaire, went to the United States for the first time. She was overwhelmed by the freely available food — and returned 20lbs heavier than she left. It went down as a black mark on her record. The authorities could see she had enjoyed her stay too much.

Two years later, she thought she was going to be refused permission to leave her homeland for the US Open. The authorities relented at the last moment. It was obvious that they were on to her. If she did not defect now, she might never get the chance again.

Courageously, Martina grabbed her opportunity. She did not think then that she would ever see her homeland or her parents again. But, the fates were to be kinder to her.

Two weeks later she went into hiding to Greenwich Village to await permission to stay in America, the Czech authorities denounced her and threatened her with two years jail if she returned.

Eleven years on however, she was back in her own country, choking back the tears when the Czech national anthem was played at the opening of the Federation Cup in Prague, and being besieged by autograph-hunting youngsters.

Now she has not only been able to see her parents again but to move them to Texas to a house near hers. The lifestyle didn't agree with them though and they are now back in Czechoslovakia.

Today, another face of the big-earning, big-spending champion with a capitalist passion for fast cars and expensive jewellery is Martina — Queen of Charity.

Her Martina Foundation for Needy Children, has funded playgrounds, tennis courts, scholarships and free dental and eye treatment for needy children and guidance centres for troubled ones.

She says: "I'm able to give because now I ask fans who send me flowers or good luck Teddy bears to send five dollars for my kids instead. I have gained a great deal in America and want to give something back."

"Most of the kids are from single parent or no family situations or less fortunate economic backgrounds."

Martina, who has made more than \$10,000,000 in prize money, gives herself, too. During a tournament in Florida she slipped away to take 60 neglected and abused youngsters for a slap-up meal. But she avoids Press coverage of such events.

Her generosity can be impulsive. She once insisted on paying the bill for an old woman dining alone at a table near hers in a Manhattan restaurant because she said, "you remind me of my grandmother."

She has also been known to break her iron-like concentration during Wimbledon to help people.

When the Duchess of Kent suffered a miscarriage, Martina was saddened to see the Duke at Wimbledon without her.

So the star of the centre court who uses a bicycle to commute between the home she rents nearby and the courts got on her bike, went into Wimbledon, and bought a bunch of yellow roses for the Duchess.

She got back just in time to catch the Duke leaving the royal box. She said: "I would be very grateful if you would be kind enough to take these to the Duchess with my best wishes for her speedy recovery."



Martina Navratilova: there is a softer side to the tennis star that is rarely publicised.

The world in turn has gradually become accustomed to her relationship with beautiful Judy Nelson. Martina depends on her for everything from an endless supply of clean socks to "making me realise what is going on inside my own head."

She is close, too, to Judy's teenagers, Edward, 17, and Bale, 14, with whom the star trains and swims.

People who really know Martina see other faces, too. When she is dressed up for a night out she is unexpectedly glamorous. And there is a playful side to her. Players' parties have seen her arrive wearing giant sun specs, huge bunny ears, and playing the bagpipes.

But there are still some unfulfilled ambitions for Martina. She confesses to a secret hankering to go back to college, when she has the time, to study literature and history.

When will that come? "I wish I knew," she says. "I just hope my body tells me when to stop."

These days however Martina has learned to relax and let her natural charm shine through during interviews.

By Bryan Appleyard

JOAN Baez had been worrying about the floods in Brazil and feeling guilty about the opulence of her suite at Brown's Hotel. "I'm ecstatically happy being surrounded by these beautiful things," she explains, "but there are those people in Rio de Janeiro sliding down a hill."

A quarter of a century after she first emerged as a caring pop star, the laser beam of her compassion is undimmed. From black civil rights through Vietnam, Cambodia, Spain and Ethiopia, she has stood up to be counted on just about every lead story on prime time news. Her suitcase and guitar in hand, she has turned up on the doorsteps of Martin Luther King, Lech Walesa, Vladimir Bukovsky, Francois Mitterrand and anybody else whose name appeared next to a big issue on her shopping list.

Unlike almost every other pop star of the Sixties, she has persisted in the belief that her success was to be used as a political weapon. She still sings protest songs, she still campaigns and she still worries about The Bomb.

She was in London recently to give a concert and to publicise her autobiography. This is a relentless 400 pages which documents her sex life — including her on celebrated lesbian affair — her politics and, to some extent, her music. It is breathless, sentimental and wildly egotistical. Reading it is like being trapped in a lift with an emotional octopus and a vast selection of holiday slides.

"I was wondering what the reaction would be to the book — it's not exactly reserved. I hadn't had an album out for a long time and I needed to do something for creative release. I suppose it's something to do with my arrogance about being a relevant human being in the Eighties and not being relegated to the Sixties forever."

But does she think the book is her?

"Oh it's definitely me, right down to the flaws. There has been one criticism which I absolutely cherish — my monumental narcissism which gets in the way of other things and stops me seeing things more clearly. I don't think there's much I can do about that."

Still singing for a cause



Joan Baez: creative release through writing.

She is convinced, however, that she can do something about everything else in the world. Most pressing she wants to wake the United States from the long self-satisfied slumber of the Eighties.

Good

"People are always saying these days in America that they feel good about themselves. I happen to think that is a reaction to the paralysis after Vietnam. They couldn't handle what had been done."

But what is so bad about the Eighties? There is no Vietnam and, so far, there has been no Cuba.

"Well, the world is falling apart. It was falling apart years ago but people seemed slightly more aware of it. Everywhere in the world people have a love hate relationship with America — blue jeans and McDonalds — but we have no sense of reality about anywhere else in the world. I live in a society which is compassionate, the administration knows nothing about poor people, black people or old people."

All of which raises the question of what she would do if there were no causes left to fight.

"There'll always be a cause for people like myself. There will always be people who relate to the problems of the world and people who don't give a damn."

Perhaps the book's most striking passage is its coverage of the Live Aid concert. Baez opened the American end of the show and spent the rest of the day drooling over the hordes of dazzling young men backstage — "I was overstimulated."

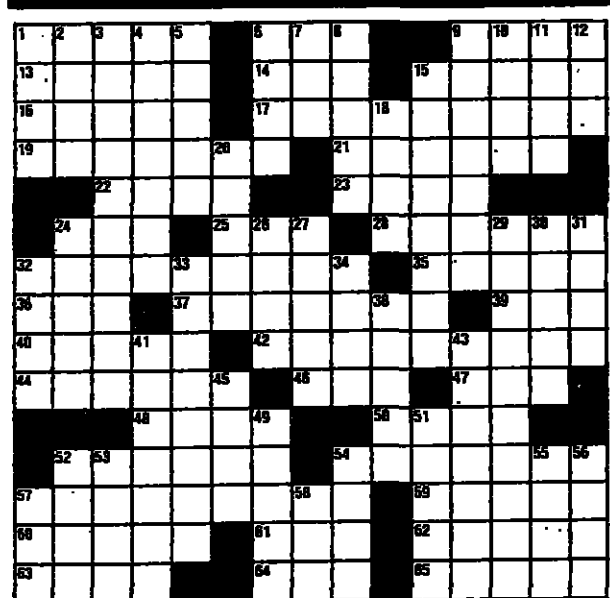
There were no causes left to fight.

"There'll always be a cause for people like myself. There will always be people who relate to the problems of the world and people who don't give a damn."

Perhaps the book's most striking passage is its coverage of the Live Aid concert. Baez opened the American end of the show and spent the rest of the day drooling over the hordes of dazzling young men backstage — "I was overstimulated."

The sexual context combines with an obvious insecurity: she was unsure about her audience and uncertain about her role as a 45-year-old folk and protest singer among the scores of rock and rollers. Her personality, always shakily realised amidst the overwriting, finally seems to evaporate in a dim, pink, erotic aura of institutionalised benevolence. The cause and self-gratification become one; it is the apotheosis of the great Sixties illusion, Brown's Hotel and Rio in one perfect synthesis.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Comedians
 - Stock in trade
 - Always in poetry
 - Key letter
 - "side and down the other"
 - Reine's mate
 - Namesakes of FDR's dog
 - Navigation device
 - City near 3 Down
 - Titanium dioxide
 - Wears
 - Mon., to Tues.
 - Entertainer
 - Tennille
 - Deg. for a museum worker
 - loss
 - perplexed
 - Inscribed pillars
 - Sia of 1987
 - British Open
 - Admired persons
 - Stray
 - Former
 - So-so grade
 - Woodland deity
 - Of a ruler
 - White as —
 - Mash
 - Swiss mountain
 - Eban
 - He, to Luigi
 - Turmoil
 - Lockjaw symptom
 - Historic home of golf
 - Precedes end or leaf
 - Saree wearer
 - Blue Eagle agency
 - Broadway musical
 - Molt
 - City of the Firth of Clyde
- DOWN**
- Dance, in Lahaina
 - Statford—Avon
 - "Flord" in NE Scotland
 - Running wild
 - California rockfishes
 - Soprano Mills
 - Ages and ages
 - Fastener for
 - Passed back and forth
 - Robert —
 - Soviet press agency
 - Jenny
 - Space is the last one
 - God of love
 - Impart color to wood
 - Emanations
 - Swarm
 - Mississippi River city
 - Scottish lake of song
 - "in the dark"
 - Donkey, in Osnabruck
 - Tableland
 - Augur
 - Have a repeat
 - Alma —
 - Longed
 - Italian chest of the Renaissance
 - Ski lift
 - Game place
 - Eliot's Mamer
 - Locale of Ulita
 - Mountains
 - Sheet of stamps
 - Peter or Nicholas
 - Govt. news dispenser
 - Observed
 - Grads-to-be
 - Distorted
- ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:**
- PAINES TRAM POSTS
AGORA RARE OTIOE
CREAMPUFFS URSIA
EEL PACY SANEST
RESTATE PANDA
ONE IAGO MEA
DARTS DREAMERS
AGEE MULES ERLIE
TEAMMATE CASCA
ARM LITER FAN
ELIOT'S POSTAGE
RODEOS HERA GOA
IRON STEAMBOATS
TAUT FWER ARTIE
ALTO SODS STENS

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
THOSE CONFOUNDED OVERTRICKS

Both vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
♠ A K 10 8
♥ J
♦ Q 10 8 6 5 2
♣ K 6

WEST
♠ 7 2
♥ K 7 2
♦ J 9 7 4
♣ 8 7 4 3

EAST
♠ Q 9 6 5 4
♥ 10 9 8 5
♦ K
♣ A Q 5

SOUTH
♠ J 3
♥ A Q 6 4 3
♦ A 3
♣ J 10 9 2

The bidding:
West North East South
Pass 1♦ Pass 1♥
Pass 1♠ Pass 2♣
Pass 2♦ Pass 3NT
Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Two of ♠

Board-a-Match team championships are unlike any other form of team competition. You can either win, tie or lose a board in a head-to-head encounter with another team, so overtricks assume enormous importance — even more than in pair competition. That can produce rather surprising results, at times.

On this deal from the final of the Reisinger Board-a-Match team

event at the Fall North American Championship, both teams reached an excellent three no trump contract. Sitting in the West seat was Zia Mahmood, a player always ready to stir things up. The normal lead from top of nothing is your highest card, but when Zia elected to lead a spade on this hand, he chose the two. That had dramatic repercussions in the play.

As can be seen from the diagram, most opening leads yield nine tricks. Faced with a low spade lead, declarer played the eight from dummy, covered by the nine and won by the jack. When the ace of diamonds dropped the king, declarer had at least nine tricks for the taking — three spades, five diamonds and the ace of hearts. But was that going to be enough to either tie or win the board? If the spade lead was normal, the declarer at the other table might come to 10 tricks by repeating the spade finesse.

After finessing the ten of diamonds, cashing the queen and conceding a diamond, declarer was faced with a spade continuation by West. He chose to finesse he ten, and when East produced the queen declarer found himself with no entry to dummy. In the end, he could gather no more than seven tricks for down two.



"It must be your pronunciation. Let me try."

THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS



Aries (March 20 - April 18)

You will have to deal with some small but important details. You should not try too much nor should you just sit back. Keep calm in the face of provocation. Be positive.



Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

You will have plenty to talk about but should avoid gossip. You will have to restrain your emotions somewhat. Avoid eating too many sodgy things. Be objective.



Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

Try to show a little more sympathy towards a friend who is having a hard time. You should be optimistic without thinking that no hard work on your part is needed. Avoid taking any undue risks.



Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

You must be careful to avoid playing with fire. You will have to act swiftly if you do not want to miss a good opportunity. Make sure you do not eat anything stale. Be more realistic.



Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)

You will have to avoid wasting time. Concentrate on what you are doing and do not be intimidated by what still remains to be done. Stick to what is attainable. Be practical.



Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)

You will be better able to deal with your current problems. There is no time to lose if you want to avail yourself of a good opportunity. Do not indulge in sweet things and try to smoke less or even given it up.



Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)

You should stick to what is strictly realistic just now. Do your best to rid yourself of resentments and prejudices. You will be able to consolidate a previous gain. Be less argumentative.



Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)

You must make sure you do not let anyone, not even a friend into a secret. You should do what is important whilst you are still fresh and not fatigued. Give good value for money. Be realistic.



Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)

You should not take quite such a negative attitude. You should not take everything quite so personally. Instead of grumbling try to look on the bright side. Be sincere.



Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan 19)

Try to avoid giving hostages to fortune. Do not place too much reliance on your charm, but do not try to use force either. Take the best possible care of your health. Be moderate.



Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)

You must make sure you do not place too much reliance on luck and do not jump to conclusions. It would be wrong to believe everything you hear. Be sensible.



Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)

You should not just let things happen and do check your facts. Show just a little more goodwill. Avoid all kinds of exaggeration. Be considerate.

SNIPPETS

Senate indulges in 'exorcism'

THE Senate momentarily diverted its attention from serious legislative business to "exorcism."

However, the exorcism was political in nature.

In the plenary session before a jam-packed crowd, the senators engaged in debate on bills seeking to "exorcise" the names "Marcos" and "Imelda" from towns and other public places and institutions.

The senators unanimously approved two bills of such nature, one changing the name of a Palawan town from "Marcos" to "Dr. Jose P. Rizal," and another, a Romblon town from "Imelda" to "Sta. Maria."

But the exorcism is not yet complete. The senators said that several bills of the same nature are still being prepared in the House of Representatives where bills of local application are filed.

They said that reviewing such bills and giving them their stamp of approval would take precious time out of serious business.

Skulls found in Bulacan

ABOUT 20 human skulls belonging to salvage victims were unearthed in several rebel graveyards in Bulacan recently.

The grim find was discovered by soldiers of the 175th PC Company and Third Scout Ranger Company during their weeklong manoeuvres in different sites in Barangay Camachang and Camachile, Dona Remedios, Bulacan.

The skulls and bones were in a cage covered with dried leaves and situated under big trees. Among them was the decomposing body of a woman.

The place is near the Bandera mountain, the training ground of New People's Army rebels in Bulacan.

It was the scene of a bloody fight between the military and rebels last April.

Capt. Felizardo Serapio, Jr. commander of the 175th PC Company, said they have been looking for the graveyards since last year after they were informed about it by a rebel from Camp Bandera who surrendered.

Serapio said the skulls and bones probably belong to missing vendors who were picked up by the rebels on the suspicion that they were military informers.

ID card plan under study

TRANSPORTATION Secretary Rainerio Reyes said recently there was nothing definite about the national reference card system proposed by the Department of National Defence.

"We are merely going to conduct a feasibility study on the proposal which is in the discussion stage," Reyes said.

Reyes, head of a Cabinet committee formed to look into the proposal, said that under this system, each citizen will receive an identification card.

Military authorities said earlier that this would help in the insurgency campaign.

Pointing out that this proposal would be very expensive and complex, Reyes said it would take "a good deal of time before a recommendation can be made."

His feasibility study would focus on three aspects:

1. The desire of the people to participate in the programme.
2. The economic feasibility of the programme.
3. The technical realism of implementation.

"Most important is if the people want it," he said.

Earlier, Defence Secretary Fidel V. Ramos said the proposal was not entirely from his department, "but a perceived need by many agencies."

Presidential military adviser Gen. Jose Magno said the programme would update the country's census and statistics records.

Movie star's husband slain

THE husband of former movie actress Merle Fernandez was shot dead by several men with automatic machine pistols as the victim stepped out of his house in Quezon City.

Police said the victim, Romeo N. Batol, 34, was slain at about 3:30 in the morning.

Batol had just opened the front door of his antique shop at his residence at 10-C Kamias Road, QC, when he was met by a hail of bullets from automatic machine pistols.

His shop was only a few metres away from the police headquarters on E. de los Santos Ave.

Police recovered at least 23 empty shells of 9-millimetre bullets from the crime scene.

Batol, who suffered many bullet wounds in the body, died on the spot.

Gringo accuses Ramos of corruption....

By Ed Perpena and Marlen Ronquillo

CHARGES of corruption and lack of combat experience from the leader of the Aug 28 failed putsch and group of young military officers were leveled against Defence Secretary Fidel V. Ramos in an apparent bid to block his confirmation by the Commission on Appointments.

The bicameral commission has scheduled hearings on Ramos' nomination.

But the defence secretary appeared to be taking the charges in stride. Informed of them, Ramos said, "If that's the case, then I'll just have to defend myself before the commission."

In a letter to a congressman last week, the contents of which were barred to the media, dismissed Army Col Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan accused Ramos of having "promoted syndicated corruption" in the armed forces by "placing his close associates in strategic comptroller posts."

Enclosed in Honasan's letter were computer printouts of a report earlier submitted by fellow renegade officer, Air Force Col Hector Tarrazona, to Sen Mamintan Tamano.

That report, according to

sources, told of irregularities in the AFP's financial institutions, an unjust promotions system and abuse of soldiers' human rights.

In his letter, Honasan claimed Ramos, as chief of staff of the armed forces, formed his own "comptroller family" to cover up for shortfalls in the AFP's budget.

A comptroller regulates the release of budget and checks these release against the approved budget plan.

Honasan said Ramos' comptroller family "gave rise to syndicated corruption in the (military's) budget-clearing system" because "the members were able to manipulate accounting and audit reports of every military unit."

Honasan claimed the comptroller family system — established during the Marcos years — "was never dismantled" by Ramos.

Honasan said Ramos, in perpetuating the practice, assigned as head of the AFP comptroller office two officials who are "notoriously known as sources of reasons for corruption."

Honasan alleged that the patronage system in the AFP was "never really changed" by Ramos. He cited two cases:

- The assignment of a certain Colonel Filler to the Intelligence



Philippines Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos denies charges

Service of the AFP (ISAFP) as assistant chief "when in fact he (Filler) was never in the intelligence community."

- Opportunities for foreign schooling were openly to close relatives of Ramos.

Tarrazona, a former special assistant of former Defence Secretary Rafael Iletto, said in a report that he was a victim of the unjust promotions system in the AFP. He claimed he "deserved to be promoted" to full colonel effective Jan 1, last year or almost eight months before the Aug 28 coup attempt but that Malacanang withdrew its nomination for

Tarrazona's promotion after he was implicated in the putsch.

On alleged anomalies in AFP financial institutions, Tarrazona reported that the current president and general manager of the AFP Savings and Loan Association Inc., whom he did not name, granted interest-free loans worth P2 million to himself and other key officers of AFP-SLAI.

Claimed

He claimed the official has not been relieved of his post despite recommendations made by the AFP Anti-graft and Corruption Board.

The other charges against Ramos were hurled by a group calling itself "Young Officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines."

They were contained in an information sheet, copies of which were furnished all members of the 25-man Commission on Appointments.

Although the sheet did not carry the signatures of the accusers, the information provided now forms part of the materials from which the CA members could base their questions to Ramos during confirmation hearings.

A copy of the "charge sheet" said Ramos has total assets of a little over P5 million — mostly

houses and residential and agricultural lands.

The young officers also charged that Ramos had no actual combat experience and his tours of duty in Korea, Vietnam and here did not prepare him for a high position in the military.

After his graduation from the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, in 1950 to his appointment as AFP chief of staff in February 1986, Ramos held easy, non-combat jobs which he gained through his powerful relatives, the young officers charged.

Referring to Ramos' military career, the officers said: "It was tailor-made, unlike a truly military professional, whose career development was determined by the general headquarters and his major service. Because of his connections and blood relations with the powers-that-be, he was able to get the choice assignments and schoolings."

"It was during Ramos' term as chief of the Constabulary that the service deteriorated. He failed to reform the PC, instil discipline and remove all erring personnel and eradicate corruption. In fact it was during his time that more glaring misdeeds were committed by PC officers," said the complaint.

... but defence chief is undisturbed

By Cesar Espino

DEFENCE Secretary Fidel V. Ramos shrugged off the corruption charges against him, saying his accusers had "obvious reasons for doing so."

"The people making these statements are apparently those now being disciplined, again as part of the reforms we are instituting in the armed forces," Ramos said in an interview.

Ramos said dismissed Army Lt Col Gregorio Honasan and former Air Force Lt Col Hector Tarrazona, classmates in the Philippine Military Academy, had made similar attempts in the past to destroy his image.

Ramos denied Tarrazona's charges that he was being

detained because of what he knows about an alleged syndicate being maintained by Ramos in the operation of financial institutions of the AFP and its overall comptrolship.

Tarrazona is being held on the basis of a written testimony of Maj Gen Antonio Sotelo, Air Force chief, Ramos said. Sotelo had said that Tarrazona called him up at the height of the Aug 28 coup attempt, asking the general to surrender because rebel forces under Tarrazona had taken over Villamor air base, which houses the PAF headquarters.

Ramos also furnished a photocopy of a Jan 19 letter he submitted to then Defence

Secretary Rafael Iletto detailing the achievements of the different AFP financial institutions.

Ramos said that after the February 1986 revolution, major changes in the management of AFP financial institutions had to be taken, including the formation of a board of directors, to oversee operations.

The letter showed significant increase in the earnings of the different financial institutions.

Ramos said in his letter to Iletto: "The improvements in the overall financial performance and delivery of benefits to members of the service are attributed to the policy initiatives directed by the AFP leadership; the general

improvements in the economy; and the continued thrust and reformist attitude of the respective board and management of these institutions that sought to achieve the best in terms of earnings for the respective institutions and delivery of services/benefits to the members."

Ramos added that the successes of the financial institutions are also largely attributed to austere measures he initiated not only within these institutions but also within the entire armed forces.

Ramos appeared undisturbed by the charges. When told that the report is already with the Commission on Appointments,

Ramos said: "Well, if that's the case, I guess I will just have to defend myself before the commission."

On the charges that he had been putting his men to handle the comptrolship of the AFP, Ramos briefly answered: "We appoint persons on the basis of performance, or those who are capable of doing the job."

He did not comment on similar charges of corruption levelled against him by a group of young officers. The group also claimed Ramos has had no combat experience and that he got his high position in the military because of "powerful connections."

Anti-porn bill gains support

By Teddy C. Ramos

A BILL seeking the imposition of harsh penalties on violators of laws against obscenity and pornography has gained the support of various groups, including a human rights organisation.

Filed by Rep. Mario Serra Ty of the first district of Surigao del Sur, House Bill No. 3111 proposes a penalty of both imprisonment of more than 10 years and a fine of not less than P200,000 but not more than P800,000 on violators of the laws.

Airing their views before the committee on public information chaired by Rep. Michael C. Mastura (Maguindanao) during a hearing on the bill, Armida Siguion Reyna,

actress-directress, said that stiff penalties and big fines should be imposed to offenders of anti-obscenity laws to "eradicate production and exhibition of lewd (bomba) films."

"People in front of the camera, like actors and actresses, cameramen and bookers, should also be fined and punished not just the producers or owners of theatres showing the porno pictures," Reyna suggested.

Ty's bill punishes the publication, sale, distribution and exhibition of obscene materials and the showing of pornographic acts.

In filing the bill, Ty said obscenity and pornography continue to be widespread and unabated despite the laws and protests from parents, teachers, civic and religious groups.

Gold found in Tarlac settlement

CAPAS, Tarlac — Aside from farming, some 300 families near the Camp O'Donnel communications facilities here are now engaged in gold panning a la Davao del Norte.

The gold is panned from the Cabatuan River which flows from the Zambales mountains and is of high grade, that is, 24K.

Aurelio Ocampo and Dominador Andres, Zone E officials of the Department of Agrarian Reform resettlement projects in the area, reported that the gold panning has improved the living conditions of the settlers.

The settlers sell the gold at P250 per gram to buyers from Central Luzon and Manila.

Mrs. Constanza Rivers, one of the settlement leaders, said the gold panners have an unwritten rule that they should engage in panning activities together and there should be no quarrelling. Otherwise, they believe they will get nothing.

This belief has resulted in successful gold panning, according to Mrs. Rivers.

Andres said that the Cabatuan River is shown in Bureau of Mines maps as part of future mine areas and this might be the reason why some of the gold spills are already panned by the settlers.

Andres also said that the settlers have appealed to the government for the construction of a bridge in Paluglog to facilitate transportation from the settlement to the provincial road.

During the rainy season, the settlement is isolated by floodwaters due to the absence of the bridge, Andres said.

Missionary conduit for Marcos funds

A FOREIGN based missionary organisation has been used as a conduit for funds deposited Marcos disbursements to his loyalists, says a Manila newspaper.

Founded by a former military man who is a known Marcos loyalist, the organisation has invested in various businesses in Metro Manila to make it appear that its disbursement of money is legal.

Among these are hograising, garment making, groceries, coffee shops, a beauty parlour and a pharmacy, the paper said.

By Willie Ng

IN the coffee-shops the other week, the talk was that Malacanang was keeping a death watch on the Marcos home in Honolulu.

The idea was that if it was determined that former President Ferdinand Marcos was seriously ill, he would be allowed to come home.

That turned out to be hogwash, because Marcos, as reported by recent visitors to his home, is as healthy as a man of his age and with his record of illness can wish to be.

Far from being bed-ridden, he is up and about, and entertaining visitors up to late in the night.

A recent visitor to the Marcos home reports that its occupants are highly irritated by visits to the former president by "high level" officials of the administration.

Marcos has admitted to serious negotiations concerning his homecoming. The terms are not unreasonable.

He said that things would be jelling in two weeks.

Viewed against this backdrop, news reports about Imelda Marcos trying to take a PAL flight incognito from Honolulu to Manila Tuesday, "but changed her mind at the last minute," have no basis.

The former first lady did show up at the Honolulu airport, but definitely not to board the plane.

She is not crazy. She will not abandon the comfort of her Honolulu home for an uncertain future in Manila.

Who among her former highly placed friends would even dare to meet her at the airport? Times have changed and she is the first one to know it.

Right now, she has high hopes that with a little waiting, she may come home with a valid passport.

As the father of martial law now entertains strong hopes of coming home, his successor administration is reportedly thinking of instituting emergency measures.

Kiss triggers hotel strike!

A KISS stolen from a female Japanese hotel guest by a room attendant allegedly triggered the strike of some 170 employees of the Philippine Plaza Hotel.

National Union of Workers in the Hotel and Restaurant and Allied Industries (NUWHRAIN) spokeswoman Lilia Figelan said they are protesting the hotel's arbitrary dismissal of room attendant Reynaldo Lacanaria, 34, also union director who was accused by a female Japanese tourist of kissing her.

But Philippine Plaza general manager Paul Ross said Lacanaria's case had been thoroughly investigated and that the Japanese guest had identified him positively from personnel file photos and video tapes as the roomboy who had kissed her on Jan 17, 1988, two days after she registered at the hotel.

Ross said that management even gave Lacanaria one week to seek legal counsel before administrative charges were filed against him.

The union claimed that Lacanaria was not guilty of the accusation even if he admitted that the Japanese guest had written

the hotel's security office reporting Lacanaria's indiscretion.

Lacanaria, Ross said, was given a 15-day suspension and was eventually terminated on Jan 29. Ross said they expected Lacanaria to send them an appeal and were surprised when they received a notice of strike from the hotel union instead in protest of Lacanaria's dismissal.

Lacanaria, the union said, denied the Japanese woman's accusations and told them that it had been the girl who had tried to seduce him.

Hotel security officers said, however, that Lacanaria had gone back to the guest room an hour after the alleged kissing incident to ask the guest for an apology. The security officers said that the guest had told them of Lacanaria's apology.

The union claimed that they have paralysed hotel operations and that truck loads of hotel guests have already moved out of the hotel. They said that ball boys from the tennis courts have been asked by management to fill in as room attendants, and the head of the property maintenance has to clean the lawn.

Union president Felix Ledonio said their complaints also include the hotel's alleged non-distribution of service charge amounting to P1.5 million in three years, non-regulation of some 300 employees who have rendered six months of service, and non-compliance of reinstatement of some officials and employees terminated despite an order from the National Labour Relation Commission to reinstate these employees.

Sarmenta: showbiz' hottest star

By Osakar Salazar



Romanick Sarmenta: 15-year-old sensation

ROMANICK Sarmenta, the 15-year-old sensation of Ch. 7's That's Entertainment, is currently the hottest young star in Philippine showbiz. The excitement over him can be compared to the impact that Aga Muhlach and Richard Gomez once had on the public.

This can be gauged by the brisk sale of his photo on the sidewalks, by the number of fan letters that movie fan magazines receive each day, the spontaneous demand for magazine covers and feature articles on him, TV offers, and the hundreds of invitations for personal appearances.

He had overtaken the popularity of Eat Bulaga's Aiza Seguerra and Lunch Date's Randy Santiago, and has matched the public's interest in Lotlot de Leon and Matet.

His edge over the rest is the fact that he has "roots" — he was a soap star in Gulong ang Palad, Heredero and TV Box-Office.

and a household name even before he joined That's Entertainment. Thus, Sarmenta can be compared to Snooky Serna, Marcel Soriano and Vilma Santos, who, before they became bankable movie actresses, were already sensational child stars.

Some people think that the Boy Cinderella from Kamuning will not be a mere flash in the pan. Properly managed and developed, he can emerge as another Christopher de Leon or Rudy Fernandez in the future.

Sarmenta, the movie star, already had his acid test in Seiko's Huwag Mong Buhayang Bangkay. Producer Robbie Tan says that his new ward contributed about 30 per cent of the film's P8M gross.

To sustain the momentum, Tan is starring Sarmenta in four movies — Leroy, Leroy, Sinta, Isusumbong Kita sa Diyos, Puso sa Puso and Rock-a-Bye Baby... Tatlo and Daddy.

Tiny-tot stardom is no child's play

By Nestor U. Torre

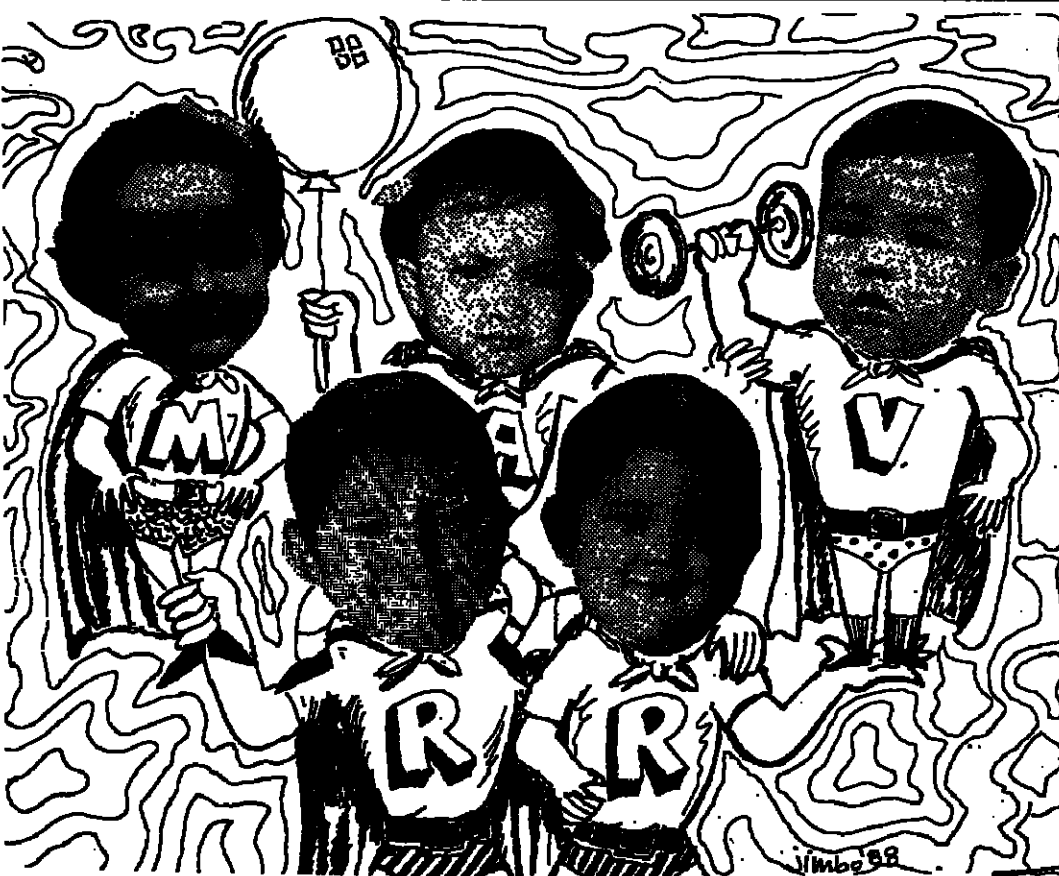
FOR better or for worse, it looks like 1988 is going to be the year of the child star.

Not that the child actors have anything to do with it. Blame all the fuss and bother on their parents, mentors, managers, fans, shalays, hangers-on, general factotums, etc. Everybody's trying to get a piece of the action, because this is where the action is.

What has made child stars so hot this year? In the past, the entertainment industry was lucky if it had one child actor who proved to be a crowd drawer: Tessie Agana in the '50s; Snooky in the '60s; Nino Muhlach in the '70s.

In the second half of the '80s, however, we have the "Super-tot," Matet de Leon; her perky rival, Aiza Seguerra; little Che-Cha Sta. Ana, who won the child performer trophy over Matet in the recent Metro filmfest; the roly-poly Gutierrez twins, Richard and Raymond; Monossi Mempo who's playing in the title role in the new TV series, Robo Kid; Van Dolph, son of Dolphy and Alma Moreno, who's started his career in entertainment by acting as "cohost" on his mom's TV show; little Sunshine, Rose Anne Gonzalez, Isabel Granada, etc., etc., etc.

Why the bumper crop of child



Child actors who once earned a pittance now command high salaries in showbusiness.

actors? Some factors:

Entertainment is becoming more youth-oriented, and the kiddie and mommy audiences are being wooed with performing tots whom the kids can empathise with.

Times are hard, so even the kiddies have to work (!) Competition has become so prevalent in entertainment that even the child performers have not been spared.

Just like adults, child actors now indulge in verbal assault (Ang pangit niya!), thus making them more "controversial", and "quotable", which, perversely enough, adds to their popularity — thus further attracting more

kiddie talents to the fray. (Whew!)

Child actors used to earn a pittance in the past, but they now make a fortune, particularly when they can "carry" a film or a TV show by themselves. The big bucks send peso signs flashing in other parents' eyes, and these ambitious parents can hardly wait for their beautiful tykes to learn how to walk before trotting them out to the studios.

Similarly, the fact that so many of today's "superstars" started as child actors has dazzled parents with the prospect of launching their children as child actors to assure their popularity and profitability as young-adult

performers later on.

Maricel Seriano, Snooky Serna, Villa Santos, Roderick Paulate, Janice de Belen, Herbert Bautista, Romanick Sarmenta and other successful ex-child stars have shown the way.

Intense competition, the big bucks, the controversy, the long working hours, the unsavoury influences in showbiz — all these pressures have made the lot of our child actors no child's play, and certainly no laughing matter.

The money's good, filming can be fun, and the attention's flattering, but performing in a commercial industry is work even for precocious tots.

Are the Marcoses coming home?

Its reason is to enable the military to fight insurgency more efficiently.

It would be something for Marcos to come home and find himself living under martial law, this time not as the administrator.

But a martial law scenario under the present dispensation is improbable.

In his time, Marcos repeatedly assured the people that even under martial law, civilian authority was supreme.

Outwardly it was so. Marcos was a civilian and he was the commander-in-chief.

But in reality it was the military which had the upper hand. Military commanders in the provinces became monarchs, their powers overshadowing those of the provincial governors.

Even the police, the civilian law enforcement arm, fell under the jurisdiction of the military. Policemen had to defer to military officers.



Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos

Murder was their business

Bonnie and Clyde: the brutal truth

By Kate Molloy

HE was a callous murderer who thought nothing of killing for a few coins. She was his lover who revelled in unnecessary violence.

Yet Bonnie and Clyde are now romantic legends thanks to the silver screen.

During their criminal reign in the 1930's, Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow wreaked havoc on American small towns murdering for petty sums and reveling in giving the police the slip.

They were on top of America's most wanted list, yet, when two of Hollywood's favourite performers starred in a film about the infamous villains, cinema audiences all over the world fell in love with the criminal heroes.

Superstar Warren Beatty and Faye Dunaway portrayed the murderers in 1967, but what audiences saw was a white-wash of the callous events that really took place more than 30 years before.

Back in 1930, petite, fair-haired Bonnie Parker met Clyde Barrow, in Texas. She was 19 and recovering from the shock that her tear-away husband, Roy Thornton had been sentenced to 99 years in jail for murder.

It seemed that Bonnie was destined to a life with criminals after 21-year-old Clyde was arrested for burglary on the first night he visited her house.

He was sentenced to 14 years in jail, so desperate to get out, he persuaded another prisoner to cut off his toes with an axe. He was released on crutches and headed straight back to Bonnie.

They moved in together and Clyde tried to earn a living by playing the saxophone. It was futile and before long, he was back to burglary and back in jail.

After Bonnie passed a Colt .38 through the jail bars, during a visit Clyde once again escaped.

Obsessed with the handsome Clyde, Bonnie willingly became his partner in crime. He drove a nippy black Ford V-8 and Bonnie was the devoted navigator.

Sometimes Bonnie turned driver of the stolen getaway saloon cars.

When, on Christmas Day 1932, Clyde let off his .45 revolver at 27-year-old salesman Doyle Johnson, whose brand new car he was attempting to steal it was Bonnie who drove the couple away from the scene of the crime.

Bonnie and Clyde robbed filling stations and county stores as they drove across America. But their greed for money and food would soon breed murder.

On October 11, 1932, the couple were driving through the small town of Sherman, north of Dallas, when they spotted a general store that looked very promising.

Bonnie entered smiling, with Clyde following her. She asked for a loan of bread and a can of salmon. She offered the shopkeeper, Howard Hall, a five dollar bill.

Just as casually Clyde gave his order. The shopkeeper reached for a meat cleaver and Clyde shot him dead at close range.

Bonnie and Clyde fled from the store and shot off in the car towards the Texas plains.

For shooting Howard Hall their profit was the paltry sum of \$28. Such the callousness of

Hollywood white-washed their career and made them a legend, but Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow were a callous couple who murdered time after time for a few dollars



The infamous Bonnie Parker. She thought nothing of killing for a few dollars.



Clyde Barrow poses with part of his arsenal.

Bonnie and Clyde. Their robberies were mostly on the minor side, but their escapades were extremely violent.

Their biggest haul was \$3,500 stolen from a filling station at Grand Prairie.

Bonnie and Clyde celebrated with a motoring holiday around Missouri, Kansas and Michigan, staying at top hotels and eating at expensive restaurants.

When the money ran out they reverted to petty crime, murdering for surprisingly small amount of money.

Bonnie coolly shot a Texas butcher three times in the

stomach before robbing him. Sixteen-year-old William Jones, a new member of the gang, shot dead the owner of a car they were stealing.

Shooting to kill had become an automatic reflex.

In March 1933 the gang was joined in Missouri by Clyde's brother, Buck and his wife Blanche. They narrowly escaped arrest from the apartment they were all staying in and shot dead two policemen in their escape bid.

It was obvious that there was no safe house for the gang, so they went back on the road.

With Buck and Blanche in tow the gang, now five strong was ready for the big time.

Brandishing newly obtained machine guns, they held up a loan company in Kansas City. They were identified and made newspaper headlines coast to coast.

Bonnie was thrilled with her new found fame and deluged newspapers with sample of her 'poetry'.

Editors eagerly printed her work, along with photographs of her smoking a cigar and brandishing a machine gun.

Insisted This annoyed Bonnie. She insisted the pictures were not meant to be serious and she was just 'horsing around'.

During their getaways the gang often kidnapped lawmen, one of who was Chief of Police Percy Boyd.

When they let him go Bonnie told him: "Tell the public I don't smoke cigars."

It was strange that a woman who could callously murder, could get so upset about the public thinking she smoked cigars.

In Joplin, Missouri, a trap was set but the gang fought their way out, killing two police officers.

By now it was apparent that they could not continue to escape capture and death.

In July 1933 the gang was hiding out in a deserted fair ground in Dexter, Iowa, when the police moved in.

Buck was fatally wounded and Blanche was captured. Jones and Bonnie were also injured, but Clyde got them both away.

In the next few months Bonnie and Clyde killed four more policemen and Jones deserted them.

In late 1933 Jones begged to be sent to prison, where he felt he would be safer from Bonnie and Clyde. The law obliged.

Realising the end was near, Bonnie sent 'The Ballad of Bonnie and Clyde' to newspapers. It concluded:

Some day they will go down together, And they will bury them side by side.

To a few it means grief to the law it's relief. But it's death to Bonnie and Clyde.

Two furious Texas deputies, Bob Alcorn and Ted Hinton, received information that the couple were making for the farm of one of their associates, Henry Methvin. It was decided to speed a posse ahead and set up an ambush.

Two days and nights were spent at the roadside by the miserable lawmen, until on May 23, 1934, a Ford truck rattled into view. Hinton spotted Irvine Methvin, Henry's elderly father, at the wheel. The police surrounded the truck and ordered Methvin senior out. The front wheel was removed and the vehicle jacked up.

Recognised At last Bonnie and Clyde drove up, at speed. Clyde recognised the jacked up truck and stopped to investigate.

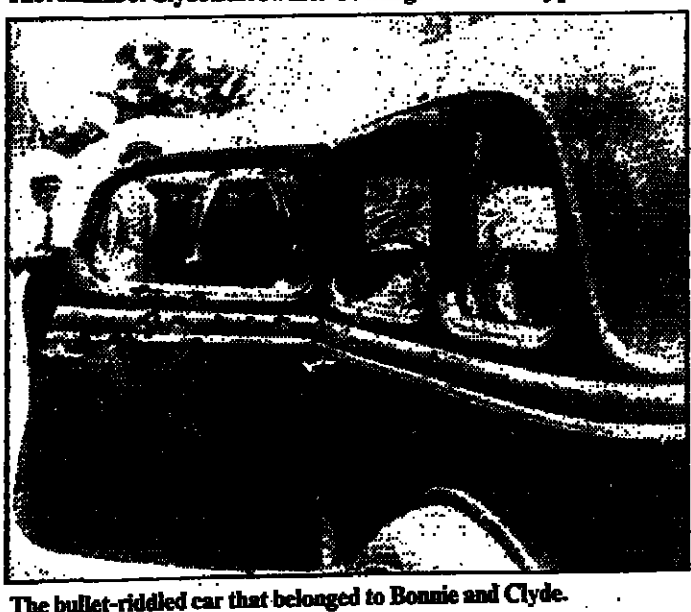
Bonnie screamed a warning but it was too late. The lawmen opened fire and a torrent of bullets pumped into the car.

Bonnie and Clyde died as brutally as they had murdered others. They dug 25 bullets out of Clyde and 23 out of Bonnie.

Yet the legend lives on.



The remains of Clyde Barrow after he was gunned down by police.



The bullet-riddled car that belonged to Bonnie and Clyde.



The body of murderess Bonnie Parker. Police pumped 23 bullets into her body.

Handwritten text in a box: "Handwritten text in a box"



A giant catfish measuring two metres is handled up by Thai fishery officials from the Mekong river.

Thais cash in on giant catfish

By Siriporn Buranaphan

BANGKOK, — Legend says the giant catfish comes only from heaven but a Thai biologist has found it can be bred in the laboratory for a profit.

The rare fish, considered sacred by Mekong River dwellers, has for centuries been highly prized for its rich, heavily-larded flesh and pungent eggs.

Seven years ago, when the giant catfish was on the brink of extinction, the Thai government decided to disregard the myths and cash in on its popularity by breeding it on farms.

Sanay Pholprasith, director of the Freshwater Fish Department, started a project to artificially inseminate the fish, known in Thai as Pla Buk, and distribute the fry to villagers throughout Thailand.

"The first difficulty was catching the fish," he said in an interview.

The giant catfish which can reach up to two metres (six feet) in length and weigh up to 250 kg (550 pounds), swims down the Mekong River only once a year.

The river, the Pla Buk's only known habitat, flows from a source in the Himalayan foothills through China, Burma, Thailand, Kampuchea and Vietnam.

But the Thais can trap the fish only where the river narrows for three kms (two miles) in the Chiang Kong district of Chiang Rai, one of the poorest provinces in the north-east.

"Villagers wait for days for the flight of a flock of seagulls which heralds the arrival of the shoal a few days later," said Sanay.

He said experienced fishermen climbed trees to get a good view of the swimming shoals.

Teams of four men then trap each fish in a huge net and bring it ashore where the eggs are removed from the females and the sperm from the males for breeding.

Experts The Thai government has distributed more than a quarter of a million fry since the project started.

The farming experiment has been successful, as the fish thrive in almost any conditions, are hardy, and eat virtually anything.

From studies so far, Thai experts believe the scaleless giant catfish probably breeds in China's Tali Lake and matures in Kampuchea's Ton Le Sap Lake.

Chinese legends say that when a besieged warrior prayed to the gods for help they transformed a leaf into the huge fish, which provided food for his starving army.

Laotian fishermen still believe the fish is bred in a cave in the heavens and released once a year as a gift to them.

Thai villagers also say the fish is heaven-sent and prepare an elaborate ceremony with three days and nights of banquets, songs and dances before trapping begins in late April.

After each catch they thank the water spirits with offerings of a piece of red cloth, a basket of rice, two chickens, a bottle of rice wine, two mirrors and a comb.

The fish comes as a handsome bonus to villagers whose average yearly earnings are about 6,000 baht (230 dollars).

Comparatively wealthy townspeople are prepared to pay fishermen 200 baht (7.60 dollars) a kg (2.2 pounds) for the flesh and more than double for the roe.

One connoisseur describes the light-coloured flesh of the thick-skinned fish as "unlike any fish I've ever eaten — it's very rich and distinctive."

"The giant catfish is not only considered a delicacy but consumers believe it holds magical powers which help to prolong their lives and bring them good fortune," Sanay said.

Chinese legends say that

ills through China, Burma, Thailand, Kampuchea and Vietnam.

But the Thais can trap the fish only where the river narrows for three kms (two miles) in the Chiang Kong district of Chiang Rai, one of the poorest provinces in the north-east.

"Villagers wait for days for the flight of a flock of seagulls which heralds the arrival of the shoal a few days later," said Sanay.

He said experienced fishermen climbed trees to get a good view of the swimming shoals.

Teams of four men then trap each fish in a huge net and bring it ashore where the eggs are removed from the females and the sperm from the males for breeding.

Experts The Thai government has distributed more than a quarter of a million fry since the project started.

The farming experiment has been successful, as the fish thrive in almost any conditions, are hardy, and eat virtually anything.

From studies so far, Thai experts believe the scaleless giant catfish probably breeds in China's Tali Lake and matures in Kampuchea's Ton Le Sap Lake.

Chinese legends say that

when a besieged warrior prayed to the gods for help they transformed a leaf into the huge fish, which provided food for his starving army.

Laotian fishermen still believe the fish is bred in a cave in the heavens and released once a year as a gift to them.

Thai villagers also say the fish is heaven-sent and prepare an elaborate ceremony with three days and nights of banquets, songs and dances before trapping begins in late April.

After each catch they thank the water spirits with offerings of a piece of red cloth, a basket of rice, two chickens, a bottle of rice wine, two mirrors and a comb.

The fish comes as a handsome bonus to villagers whose average yearly earnings are about 6,000 baht (230 dollars).

Comparatively wealthy townspeople are prepared to pay fishermen 200 baht (7.60 dollars) a kg (2.2 pounds) for the flesh and more than double for the roe.

One connoisseur describes the light-coloured flesh of the thick-skinned fish as "unlike any fish I've ever eaten — it's very rich and distinctive."

"The giant catfish is not only considered a delicacy but consumers believe it holds magical powers which help to prolong their lives and bring them good fortune," Sanay said.

Chinese legends say that

when a besieged warrior prayed to the gods for help they transformed a leaf into the huge fish, which provided food for his starving army.

Laotian fishermen still believe the fish is bred in a cave in the heavens and released once a year as a gift to them.

Thai villagers also say the fish is heaven-sent and prepare an elaborate ceremony with three days and nights of banquets, songs and dances before trapping begins in late April.

After each catch they thank the water spirits with offerings of a piece of red cloth, a basket of rice, two chickens, a bottle of rice wine, two mirrors and a comb.

The fish comes as a handsome bonus to villagers whose average yearly earnings are about 6,000 baht (230 dollars).

Comparatively wealthy townspeople are prepared to pay fishermen 200 baht (7.60 dollars) a kg (2.2 pounds) for the flesh and more than double for the roe.

One connoisseur describes the light-coloured flesh of the thick-skinned fish as "unlike any fish I've ever eaten — it's very rich and distinctive."

Master flower arranger

By John Edward

BOSTON: A quiet, serious Oriental gentleman approached a 15-foot-tall clump of dried-up, browned pampas grass at Boston's Arnold Arboretum. Two Japanese assistants stood silently and respectfully at a distance.

Suddenly, armed with a small pair of clippers, the gentleman disappeared into the tall grass. After several seconds of rustling about, he was back in the sunlight smiling, clutching a fistful of foot-long, bright green vegetation.

"The grand master is very pleased," said one assistant, retrieving the fresh stalks. "Outside the grass is dead. But inside he has found life."

Kazuhiko Kudo is a "No. 1 grand master" at the Ohara School of Ikebana in Tokyo.

Ikebana is the generic term for Japanese flower arranging.

Professor Kudo and his entourage were here under the co-sponsorship of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University and the Japan Society of Boston Inc.

At the arboretum, Kudo gathered branches of "Okushimo" maple, red-berried flex, heart-shaped hydrangea, and a variety of grasses, leaves, and pine boughs.

Down by a small pond, he uncovered some iris leaves protected from a recent killing frost. "Yesterday the professor bought iris at the flower market, but without leaf. Now he will borrow these for arrangement tonight," an assistant whispered.

"Always in Japan, we use greens with flower," said Kudo, returning from the pond with a few wet, glistening waterily leaves.

As each maple branch was selected and cut, an assistant would quickly scrape the stem and dip it in a jar of sake. "It preserves and makes the leaves 'blush,'" Kudo explained through an interpreter. Other specimens were dipped in vinegar, peppermint extract, or plain or salted water.

If you don't have alum, Kudo suggested, burning the stems has the same result.

With clippers in hand he



Kazuhiko Kudo: a grandmaster of the Japanese art of Ikebana

Kudo teaches the Ohara method of Ikebana. Established in 1897, this school is relatively new to this ancient art. Rather than the classical "twisted and tortured" method, the Ohara school developed a style more subtle and sympathetic to nature.

This style is often done in large, shallow containers. It reflects and sometimes improves upon nature, said Kudo. The "improving" comes with the bending of branches and judicious snipping of a few leaves here and there. This may be done to bring visibility to, say, a flower in the background.

A few stiff materials gathered by the pond were placed asymmetrically in one shallow container. Grasses were added to soften the effect. Some were bent, "so you can feel the wind." A few flowers in bud are added for color.

The grand master has taught in China, Australia, and South America, but this was his first trip to the United States. He had just come from Los Angeles, and was on his way to Chicago and Honolulu.

Thirty-five years ago Kudo was a practicing geological engineer. When that industry "dried up," he said, he entered an amateur Ikebana show. He won, and the twig was bent.

In another display he trimmed the woody stems of hydrangea and dipped the tips in powdered alum. "The alum will force the flower to drink," he said, tucking the basketball-size blossoms in a summer arrangement of hydrangea, blue iris, maple, and white daisies.

If you don't have alum, Kudo suggested, burning the stems has the same result.

With clippers in hand he

snapped away a perfect pink and white lily blossom, leaving only closed and partly opened buds. "We praise the flower that is about to open. It has future," he said as he placed the spare stalk in a high, white, antique porcelain vase. "Fully opened," he added, "the flower has gone past."

The two assistants — Ikebana teachers in their own right — were kept busy moving in trays of materials and carefully lifting out the finished pieces. Occasionally they would gently lift a sleeve of Kudo's kimono as he worked to keep it from knocking over a delicately balanced arrangement.

Flower arranging is as much a part of Japanese life as a bowl of rice. Every older home has an alcove where Ikebana is displayed. Even in newer homes, where space is at a premium, a small arrangement graces a low table or stool. Especially fine floral arrangements are created to celebrate the new year.

Before that holiday, Kudo not only decorates his own home, but stops in at the Imperial Palace and creates no fewer than 13 floral pieces for the emperor.

Kudo was especially pleased to find a witch hazel in bloom. He placed the cascading, yellow-flowered spray in a delicate Japanese basket which, he said, could be a standing or hanging piece.

Kudo moved with surprising quickness, creating 12 exquisite arrangements in a variety of seasons and styles. "He makes it look so simple," said Mabel-Maria Herweg, who kindly lent many of her rare and precious vases for the demonstration. "I studied with Professor Kudo 20 years ago in Japan, and let me tell you, it's not easy."

The Christian Science Monitor.

Leap year: it's all Julius Caesar's fault

By Randolph E. Schmid

WASHINGTON, (AP) — Like Olympiads and US presidential elections, leap day comes but once in four years. Monday's calendar adjustment, like setting a watch back in the autumn to get an extra hour, adds a day in the year to keep in tune with nature.

For people born on prior February 29ths, it's an eagerly awaited chance to celebrate that doesn't occur every year. For someone aged 80, perhaps having to list only 20 birthdays is a joy.

Others anxious for adulthood struggle to prove that five birthdays makes them old enough to vote and drive a car. Indeed, the problem was crucial for Frederick, the hero of Gilbert and Sullivan's Pirates of Penzance, a young man born Feb 29 and indentured until his 21st birthday.

In case you haven't realised, tomorrow is February 29th, a leap day, an event which occurs every four years, to add a day in our year to keep it in tune with nature. Just how, where and when did it start?

For both the fun and frustration of this added day, reader unto Julius Caesar the blame that is his.

Caesar wanted to make the calendar accurate, and it almost worked.

Designed The day is designed to compensate for the fact that calendars count in whole days, 365 or 366 depending on the year, while it takes the earth 365.25 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes and 46 seconds to get around the sun.

Adding an extra day every fourth year helped compensate for that difference of about a quarter day, but problems became obvious as the Romans' inaccurate calendar got three months out of line with the seasons.

So, in 46 BC, known ever since as the Year of Confusion, Caesar added 67 days to the calendar to set it right again. And to keep the calendar accurate, he instituted the system of slipping in one more day on Feb 29.

That reform, suggested that the Roman astronomer Sosigenes, became part of what is known as the Julian calendar and remained in use for centuries.

Problem "There was one small problem: Sosigenes had done a little too much rounding off," explained Gail S. Cleere of the US naval observatory.

Sosigenes had estimated the year at 365.25 days, while it really was 365.2422 days. That means Sosigenes was about 11 minutes off over the course of a year.

Although Caesar and his astronomer were long gone before anyone noticed it, some 1,500 years later, 11 minutes per year had added up to a whopping 10 days," Cleere said.

"And so, the seasons were slipping backwards again — spring into winter, winter into fall, and so on."

That prompted the current calendar, instituted by Pope Gregory in 1582, who dropped the offending 10 days — a change that took a while to be accepted in non-Catholic countries. Indeed, England and her colonies didn't join in until 1752, by which time the error had grown to 11 days. Japan came over in 1873, China in 1911 and Russia held out until its Bolshevik revolution in 1917.

That's why many history books refer to dates during the transition period as either "old style" or "new style" depending on whether a country was following the Julian or Gregorian calendar at the time.

In addition to dropping the added days, Pope Gregory ruled that not every fourth year would be a leap year.

In the Gregorian calendar, centennial years are leap years only if they can be divided evenly by 400.

Thus, the year 2000 will be somewhat unusual in being a leap year. The last centennial leap year was 1600, the next will be 2400.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

US trade policy group urges new action against Japan

WASHINGTON, February 27. (Xinhua): A top US trade policy review group has urged President Reagan to initiate a trade retaliation case against Japan, accusing Japan of unfairly closing its construction market to US companies. US press reports said today.

The policy group composed of senior administration officials voted yesterday unanimously to recommend the move following deadlocked negotiations on opening Japanese construction market to foreign companies in Tokyo last week.

The recommendation must be endorsed by the cabinet-level economic policy council led by Treasury Secretary James Baker before going to the president.

During the Tokyo negotiations last week, American officials said the Japanese had made few concessions. The Japanese were willing to provide opportunities for heavy construction work, but excluded engineering and high-technology jobs where American companies have the greatest know-how, American officials said.

Unfair

The sanctions on unfair trade, authorised under section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974, would be far broader than the action already taken by Congress in the form of an amendment which barred Japanese companies from taking part in new US federal public works contracts until the US determines that the Japanese market has been opened sufficiently.

The retaliation being considered is similar to that already in place against Japan over the semiconductor dispute. The US still has sanctions against \$165 million worth of Japanese electronics products.

Construction first emerged as an important trade issue during talks about Kansai International Airport, the \$8 billion facility that is being built on an artificial island off the Japanese city of Osaka.

The talks subsequently expanded to cover Japanese public works in general, which by some estimates could total about \$60 billion over the next 10 years.

Britain's Lloyds Bank reports losses

LONDON, Feb. 27. (UPI): Lloyds Bank Plc, the last of Britain's "big four" clearing banks to report, today announced losses for 1987 of £244 million after provisions against loans to developing countries of up to 34 per cent.

This made Lloyds only the second major British bank — after Midland Bank earlier in the week — to report an annual trading loss this century. Both deficits were due to making exceptional set-asides to cushion against possible bad Third World debts.

Provisions

The Lloyds pattern followed the other three. Good domestic profitability was hit by the need for increased provisions against international loans and losses and cutbacks from investment banking activities.

Profits for the whole Lloyds group jumped from £700 million in 1986 to £818 million in 1987 before taking into account the £1.066 billion of exceptional provisions, Lloyds said.

Underlying the increase was a strong 32 per cent increase in British retail banking, where strong performances from personal banking, credit card business, estate agency and insurance broking pulled in profits of £562 million, it said.

Contribution

Corporate banking improved its contribution by 13 per cent to £80 million, although lending margins continued under pressure, it said.

Even before the exceptional provisions, international banking profits were down from £139 million to £117 million, with good profits in some parts of the world offset by the non-payment of interest by some countries, mainly Brazil, it said.

The dividend was still raised by 10 per cent, with chairman Sir Jeremy Morse allowing it to be paid out of the reserves, which include undistributed profits from earlier years.

This, and stockmarket feeling that a capital raising exercise will not be needed at the moment, pushed Lloyds shares up 5 pence to 272 pence.

Move to rejuvenate drought-ravaged economy

India must opt for tough fiscal discipline

At a glance

NEW DELHI, Feb. 27. (UPI): Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's government must opt for tough fiscal discipline to rejuvenate India's drought-ravaged economy in presenting its annual budget this week, experts say.

They believe Finance Minister Narain Dutt Tiwari will have to act against the key problems of inflation, government overspending and lethargic performance in agriculture and exports when he presents the spending plan for fiscal 1988 to parliament on Monday.

Yet the pressures of a general election that must be held by the end of next year may force the government to avoid any radical change of direction in economic policy.

The World Bank forecasts a zero growth rate this year for India's 780 million people. Underlying problems in India's centrally planned economy have been exacerbated by last year's drought, the worst this century.

Damage

Summer rains failed in most parts of the country. There was severe crop damage in a nation where some 80 per cent of the people live in rural areas and agriculture accounts for about 40 per cent of the gross domestic product.

"Last year's drought revealed that despite 40 years of planned industrialisation, the economy is still dependent on the monsoon," said Dr Aloke Sish of the government-funded National Council of Applied Economic Research.

Government stockpiles prevented food shortages, but the Reserve Bank of India said the water problems already have

	Actuals 1986-87	Budget estimate 1987-88	Revised estimate 1987-88	Budget estimate 1988-89
(A) Gross traffic receipts	7595.66	8179.00	8474.00	9393.00
(B) Ordinary working expenses	5360.56	5750.00	6045.00	6675.00
(C) Appropriation to de-provision reserve fund	1250.00	1350.00	1350.00	1500.00
(D) Appropriation to pension fund	350.00	450.00	450.00	550.00
(E) Total working expenses (B)+(C)+(D)	6960.56	7550.00	7845.00	8725.00
(F) Net traffic receipts (A)-(E)	685.10	629.00	629.00	668.00
(G) Net miscellaneous receipts	75.74	92.00	92.00	92.00
(H) Net railway revenue (F)+(G)	680.84	721.00	721.00	760.00
(I) Dividend Payment to general revenues	578.85	652.00	640.00	736.00
(J) Surplus/shortfall (H)-(I)	(+101.99)	(+569.00)	(+69.00)	(+28.00)
(K) Appropriation to railway development fund	101.99	69.00	69.00	28.00
(L) Payment of deferred dividend liability				
(M) Operating ratio	92.5%	92.5%	92.5%	92.5%
(N) Percentage of net revenue before payment of dividend to general revenues on the capital charge	6.6%	6.2%	6.2%	6.0%

reduced this year's food-grain crop to 130 million tons instead of the projected 160 million tons. Sish said the poor harvest may force India to buy grain on world markets. Newspapers reported recently that New Delhi has sent letters to Washington about purchasing US wheat and corn.

Against this backdrop, experts said Tiwari is confronted by other economic ills.

The number of registered unemployed has surged in the past three years to more than 30 million. City dwellers have borne the brunt of a 12 per cent inflation rate, the first time it has reached double digits in six years.

Concern

The government has failed to balance its books and owes some Rs. 84 billion, about 20 per cent of this to foreign lending agencies. Experts expressed concern

that much of the borrowed money is being channelled into stop-gap, unproductive ventures.

"We have not yet reached a point of no return, but are slowly walking into a debt trap," said B S Minhas, professor at the Indian Statistics Institute.

But V L Rao of the Centre for Policy Research, a government-aided "think tank," said industries have done marginally well under Gandhi, achieving preset targets and last year expanding at a rate of 8 per cent.

Most of the success has been in the private sector, which has expanded to cater to India's burgeoning middle class.

But problems remain in the key public sector industries, an area Gandhi vowed to rejuvenate when he was elected in December 1984. He also promised to liberalise an economy snared by bureaucratic pedantry and rigid, centralised planning.

However, the 43-year-old leader has failed to resuscitate the notoriously inefficient state-run ventures.

The railway budget proposes a 6 per cent increase in freight rates to net Rs 241 crores. Certain essential commodities, like fertilisers, foodgrains, pulses, salt, edible oils, fodder and jaggery and livestock exempted.

Reservation fee for air-conditioned first class will be Rs 12, for AC sleeper and first class Rs 6 and for AC chair car and second sleeper Rs 5 and for second class Rs 2.

Second class (ordinary) fares increased. Flat increase per ticket ranges between a minimum of 50 paise for distance upto 10 km, and a maximum of Rs 3 for dis-

tances beyond 150 km.

Parcel and luggage rates up by 10 per cent to net Rs 23 crores.

Surplus budget of Rs 28 crores after paying full dividend of Rs 736 crores to general exchequer.

The price of platform ticket increased by 50 paise.

Second class monthly season ticket fares increased.

The increase ranges between Rs 4 and Rs 8 at different distance legs from 1 to 150 km.

Flat increase per ticket in air-conditioned chair car fares by an amount ranging between a minimum of Rs 5 for the distance slab one to 100 km and a maximum of Rs 25 for distances beyond 1000 km.

Ten per cent increase in fares for first class, both for single journey and monthly season tickets, made with effect from 1.11.1987 for drought relief to continue as fare increase.

Second class Mail Express fares goes up. The hike ranges between Rs 2 for distance upto 50 km to Rs 15 for distances beyond 750 km.

Fares

In air-conditioned sleeper fares there has been a flat increase per ticket ranging between a minimum of Rs 10, for the distance slab one to 50 km and a maximum of Rs 95 for distances beyond 1300 km.

The new fares would be effective from April 1, 1988.

There will be a 10 per cent increase in the existing fares for all distances for air-conditioned first class in addition to the surcharge of 10 per cent levied with effect from November 1 last, on first class and first class air-conditioned, which will continue as fare increase.

World Business Summary

Progress cited in US trade bill talks

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27. (Reuters): Negotiators hammering out a compromise US trade bill on Thursday said significant progress had been made towards shaping legislation acceptable to the White House. The House of Representatives and Senate have each passed their own version of a trade bill. The White House has condemned both as protectionist. Congressional negotiators were working on a compromise. "We made substantial progress," said Senator Lloyd Bentsen following a closed-door meeting of Senate negotiators.

Bentsen, who heads the Senate contingent in the talks, said his side was trying to accommodate White House concerns about the legislation, which would affect US trade policy in numerous areas. "I think the administration has done extremely well," Bentsen told reporters.

The 199-member House-Senate negotiating team agreed to deal with what were considered "less controversial" items first, and then tackle the more difficult provisions, such as one that would require US retaliation against trading partners with unfair barriers against American goods.

The administration has strongly objected to a so-called "sugar drawback" provision that would allow US sugar cane refiners to receive government refunds for duties paid on past sugar imports. The White House said a few large refiners would reap a windfall of up to \$70 million under this provision. The administration also has fought against a provision that would impose quotas on the amount of lamb brought into the United States.

Hong Kong economy still competitive despite crash

HONG KONG, February 27. (Xinhua): Despite the unprecedented stock market crash late last year, Hong Kong's competitiveness in world markets is stronger now than it has been for a decade. This point is stressed by the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation in its February economic report issued today.

The report notes that over the last two years, corporate profits have shown substantial growth: in 1986, Hong Kong's average net earnings went up by 35.5 per cent, and in 1987, the earnings are estimated to have increased by 30 per cent. "And in 1988, expectations of a 15 per cent to 20 per cent increase are not unrealistic given the GDP projections for the year," the report is confident that the Hong Kong economy now has the "necessary momentum to weather the impact of weaker world demand and new trade restrictions."

Any consideration of long-term corporate earnings growth must take into account Hong Kong's expanding economic ties with the one million workers on the mainland who either are employed by, or receive manufacturing orders from, Hong Kong, compared with the 900,000 manufacturing workers within the territory itself.

"In the longer term the availability of lower cost labour and land, coupled with China's rapidly expanding demand for Hong Kong's transport, financial and tourism services, is expected to give local corporate profitability a healthy boost," it says. It also stresses that although Hong Kong's manufacturing sector only accounts for about 22 per cent of its GDP, its continued well-being is essential to a steady progress of other economic sectors.

Pessimism on growth prospects unfounded

PARIS, Feb. 27. (Reuters): Leading industrial nations have agreed that pessimism on global expansion prospects after the October stock market crash was unfounded and that world growth estimates made then would have to be revised upward. Economists from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) agreed to boost a 1988 estimate of West German growth to 1.75 per cent from a previously seen 1.5 per cent, diplomats and government officials said.

Impact

Speaking after a committee meeting yesterday, Bernhard Molitor, head of the West German delegation, said "things turned out to be nowhere near as bad as everyone had expected."

The meeting, requested by several smaller nations worried about the impact of the global stocks crash, also agreed to raise forecasts for growth in other nations, diplomats said.

"Most of the world appears to have finished 1987 with more strength than one could see when it was still happening," one diplomat said.

As a result, many forecast for industrial strength in the second half of last year would have to be increased and this would probably spill over into higher estimates for economic expansion early this year.

Helmut Schlesinger, vice-president of West Germany's powerful Bundesbank Central Bank, also told Reuters: "It is clear now that people were much

too pessimistic last October. The stocks crash had very little effect on growth."

Japan had also performed much stronger than expected, diplomats said.

The officials were attending a special session on the organisation's economic policy committee which meets semi-annually to set guidelines for ministerial discussion and lay the groundwork for industrial nations summits.

Lower

Molitor said the OECD upward revision now roughly coincided with Bonn's own growth estimates and may even be at the lower limit of possibilities.

West Germany, whose powerful economy plays a pivotal role in Europe, came under strong

Banks ready bids for Mexico's new foreign debt programme

MEXICO CITY, Feb. 27. (AP): Foreign banks were winding up secret bidding in a bond auction that would determine the success of Mexico's unique programme to erase some of its foreign debt of \$105 billion.

Mexico's approximately 560 creditor banks had until 4 pm est (2100 GMT) Friday to submit bids to J P Morgan and Co., the New York exchange agent for the deal.

The plan was devised by the Mexican and US governments to try to reduce Mexico's heavy debt burden, the second highest in the developing world after Brazil.

Successful

Christine Bindert, senior vice-president at the financial firm of Shearson Lehman Brothers Inc. in New York, said the programme "should be fairly successful with a lot of participation, particularly from European and (US) regional banks."

However, major US banks were expected to shun the programme.

The new programme involves exchanging some of the debt Mexico owes foreign commercial bankers for new, 20-year bonds that will be issued by the government.

The bonds, which will be backed by \$4 billion worth of special US treasury securities, will carry a higher interest rate than Mexico is paying on the old debt.

Analysts doubt the government will be able to market the entire \$10-billion package. Mexican officials, they say, want to sell at least \$3 billion of the securities.

The programme success hinges on how much the banks are willing to take for their old loans. In early February, Mexican debt was selling for about 48 cents on the dollar in the secondary market.

In the auction, the bankers will try to get as much money as they can for their old loans, while Mexico will want to buy the debt cheaply.

Analysts predict the average

discount rate will range from 60 cents to 70 cents on the dollar. Mexico is likely to announce next week how many of the bids it will accept.

Many bankers have been hesitant to say if they will bid.

Participation

"We're still studying the programme in terms of our own participation," said James H. Mitchell, spokesman for Bank of America in San Francisco.

In London, none of Britain's big four commercial banks has announced it will take part.

"We haven't said what we're going to do," said a Lloyds spokesman. Added a spokesman for National Westminster, "our decision hasn't been made yet."

Both demanded anonymity.

West Germany's largest bank, the Deutsche Bank, said it will bid.

"There had been so many proposals to solve this problem," said spokesman Hans Dettmar. "Finally this plan comes up. It's a new approach, and we want to see how it works."

OAU chief silent on allegations

ADDIS ABABA, Feb. 27. (Reuters): A report by external auditors accuses several top officials of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) of dishonesty, incompetence and negligence in their management of the body's finances.

The report, made available to Reuters, says OAU Secretary General Idriss Oumarou misappropriated more than \$100,000 meant for expenditure on his official residence.

He had also appointed officials to the OAU secretariat whose posts had not been provided for in the budget, it added.

Oumarou and other senior OAU officials have made no public reaction to the document and could not be reached for

comment.

The auditors, all from OAU member states, said in their report: "The accounts for the financial year 1986/87 are riddled with many irregularities due to incompetence, dishonesty and negligence on the part of some officials."

Regulations

In addition to criticising Oumarou, the report accused Claude Segbenou, the head of the secretariat's supplies section, of buying a photocopier and 500 used typewriters from the OAU for less than \$500.

Segbenou also misappropriated fuel coupons and irregularly held on to more than \$15,000 of OAU funds, it said.

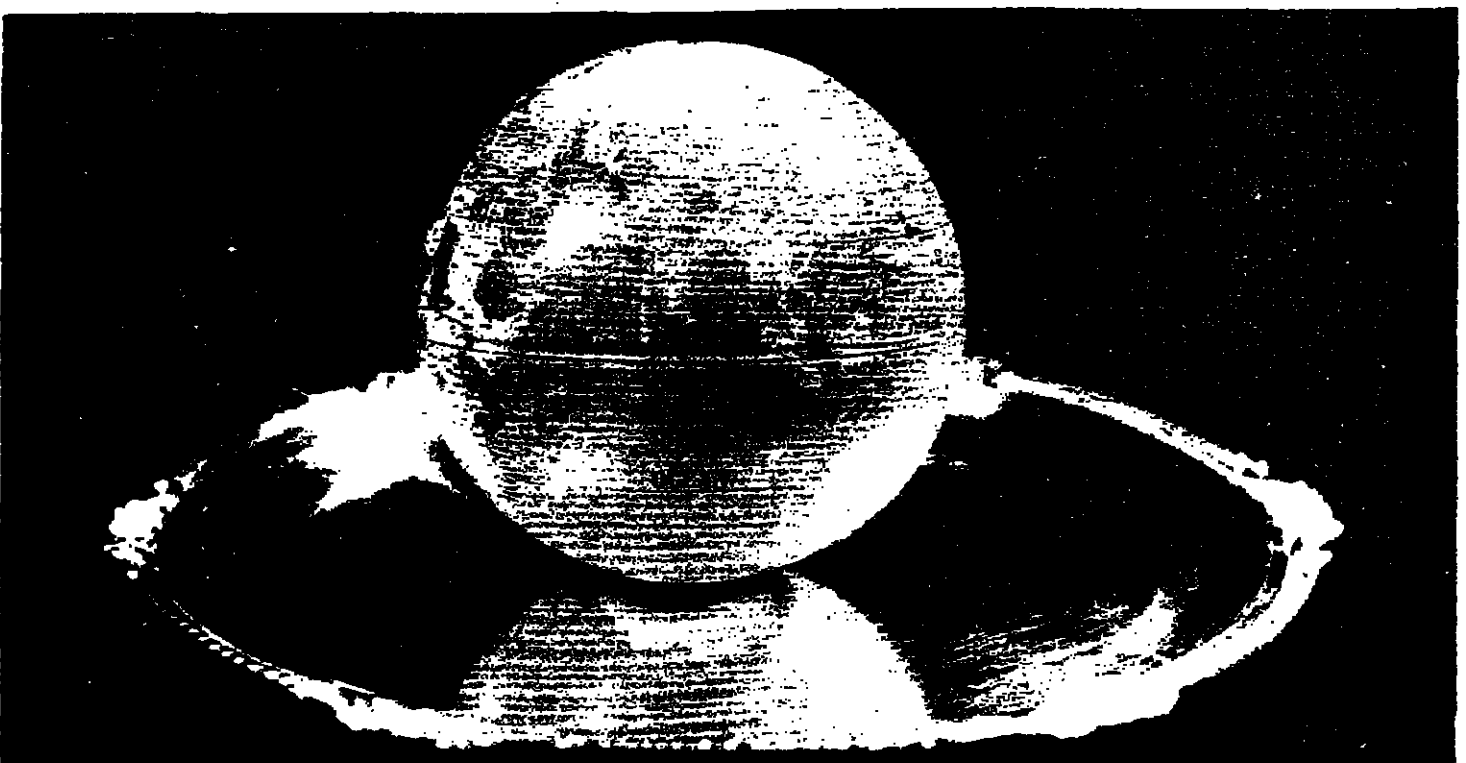
The report said Oumarou, in breach of OAU financial regula-

tions, spent \$101,561 on furniture and fittings for his private house from \$245,345 fund set aside for the construction of an official residence for him.

"Most of the purchases were well over \$5,000, but there was no invitation to tender, neither were the purchase orders cleared beforehand by the internal auditors," the report said.

"We hold the view that the provisions of the financial rules and regulations have been violated," it concluded.

The report, which was discussed by OAU foreign ministers earlier this week, recommends the dismissal of officials who have proved to be incompetent and the appointment of qualified people in the OAU finance department.



The world on a silver platter.

Yours, at CEPZ

CEPZ or Cochín Export Processing Zone. Set up by the Government of India, has successfully completed 23 projects.

Subsequently demonstrating to you an opportunity you shouldn't miss out on. A splendid chance, which with the aid of CEPZ's many facilities and incentives will bring you - the world on a silver platter!

Infrastructural facilities:

Located just 8 kms away from Cochín city, CEPZ is situated on a plot of about 100 acres.

The facilities here include:

1. Inexpensive Standard Design Factories or open developed plots on long lease.
2. Constant supply of water and power.
3. All telecommunication facilities including a 400-line imported electronic exchange.

Administrative Support:

To ensure that the production stage is reached rapidly, administrative procedures have been simplified and many facilities provided such as:

- Speedy processing of applications
- Immediate clearance of all incoming and outgoing consignments by an onsite fully staffed customs wing
- Exemption from Export Control Order.

Incentive Package:

To enable you to make quality products, of international market standards, the incentives offered are plenty.

To mention only a few:

- No duties and licences on import of inputs
 - Exemption from Central Excise Duties and other levies.
 - Priority release of phone/telex connection.
 - Easy foreign capital and technology participation procedures.
 - Tax holiday for any consecutive 5 years, in the first 8 year period of production.
 - Reimbursement of Central Sales Tax.
- The State Government also offers special incentives like:
- Subsidy on feasibility studies (50% of the cost as grant, 40% loan and 10% entrepreneurs' contribution)

- Capital subsidy at 15% of the cost of fixed assets with a ceiling of Rs. 15 lakhs.
- Total and indefinite exemption from power cuts.
- State Sales Tax exemption.
- Public Utility Status to Zone Units - hence peaceful industrial relations.

For further details on CEPZ, either write to or contact directly:

The Development Commissioner
Cochín Export Processing Zone
KSHB Office Complex (6th Floor)
Panampilly Nagar
Cochín 682 016, Kerala, India.
Telephone: 351465, 366282, 361889
Telex: 0885-6590 CEPZ IN

Alshall stock price indices

Kuwait trading volume dips

ALSHALL index for Kuwaiti shareholding companies recorded on Wednesday an average of 37.98 points with a decrease of 0.32 points from last week. Alshall Index for Gulf shareholding companies reached 49.08 points with a slight increase of 0.39 points for the same period.

The trading volume for Kuwaiti shares reached 17.89 million shares at a daily average of 3.58 million shares with decrease of 43 per cent from the previous week daily average of 6.26 million shares.

Gulf traded shares reached 47.86 million at a daily average of 9.57 million shares with an increase of 97 per cent over last week daily average of 4.86 million shares. The value of Kuwaiti traded shares was KD6.81 million while it was KD0.9 million for the Gulf traded shares.

The market was mixed as it continued its weak performance for Kuwaiti shares while it had a positive performance for Gulf shares. This resulted in increasing the gap between Kuwaiti and Gulf indices to exceed 11 points in favour of Gulf shares. The concentration of trading for Kuwaiti shares was in the banking sector 46 per cent of total trading volume. The lead was for Kuwait National Bank at 37 per cent of this sector followed by the Gulf Bank at 14 per cent and Burgan Bank at 10 per cent.

The services sector came second at 23 per cent of total trading volume with Kuwait commercial markets having 46 per cent of this sector, Mobile Telephone Systems 28 per cent and Kuwait computer 16 per cent.

The investment sector was third at 9 per cent of total trading with Commercial Facilities having 39 per cent of the sector total, Kuwait International Investment Company 36 per cent and (IFA) 18 per cent.

For Gulf shares market the other companies market had the lead for the second consecutive week at 81 per cent of total trading of which Ras AlKhaima White Cement had 37 per cent, Fujairah Cement 36 per cent and Sharghah Cement 37 per cent. Although about 50 per cent of Kuwaiti shareholding companies and about 80 per cent of the Gulf companies have not declared their dividends, there are some arguments about the weak market prices and the need for a price push. There have been attempts from time to time for raising the prices without a real attempt for mending the financial position of the companies which are facing financial difficulties.

Kuwait shareholding companies index

	Wednesday 24/02/88	Wednesday 17/02/88	Change points
Banking Sector			
Kuwait National Bank	91.31	95.00	-3.69
The Gulf Bank	29.35	28.51	0.84
The Commercial Bank	21.77	21.43	0.35
Al Ahli Bank	28.35	29.80	-1.44
Bank of Kuwait & M. East	26.75	26.31	0.44
Kuwait R. Estate Bank	27.78	27.78	0.00
Burgan Bank	24.78	24.58	0.20
Kuwait Finance House	64.88	65.55	-0.67
Sector Index	40.08	40.69	-0.61
Investment Sector			
Kuwait Investment Co.	34.85	34.85	0.00
Kuwait Int. Invest. Co.	27.49	27.15	0.34
Inv. Pearl Kuwait	84.13	84.13	0.00
IFA	80.88	82.35	-1.47

Commercial Facilities	97.73	96.59	1.14
Sector Index	41.88	41.81	0.08
Insurance Sector			
Kuwait Insurance Co.	38.60	38.60	0.00
Gulf Insurance Co.	28.46	28.46	0.00
Al Ahlia Insurance Co.	47.93	43.94	3.99
Warba Insurance Co.	83.33	83.33	0.00
Sector Index	39.87	39.23	0.64
Real Estate Sector			
Kuwait Real Estate	31.61	31.86	-0.25
United Realty	13.18	12.51	0.67
National Real Estate	46.19	46.19	0.00
Sector Index	23.40	23.10	0.30
Industrial Sector			
Kuwait Cement Co.	16.22	16.22	0.00
Refrigeration Indust.	79.46	79.46	0.00
Gulf Cables	99.76	104.90	-5.14
Kuwait Pharmaceutical	56.00	68.44	-12.44
Sector Index	31.52	32.68	-1.16
Services Sector			
Kuwait Computer Co.	207.36	203.04	4.32
Kuwait Cinema Co.	10.37	10.37	0.00
Public Warehousing Co.	75.76	79.80	-4.04
Kuwait Comm. Markets Co.	42.94	41.95	1.00
Mobile Telephone Syst.	366.67	366.67	0.00
Sector Index	67.21	67.88	-0.66
Food Sector			
Livestock Trad. & Transp.	49.63	50.85	-1.22
United Fisheries	9.92	9.77	0.14
Kuwait United Poultry	87.28	88.01	-0.73
Kuwait Food Co.	70.11	65.52	4.60
Sector Index	43.58	43.28	0.30
Overall Index	37.98	38.30	-0.32

	Wednesday 24/02/88	Wednesday 17/02/88	Change points
Gulf shareholding companies index			
Financial Companies			
First Gulf Bank	228.95	228.95	0.00
United Gulf Bank	34.48	34.48	0.00
Bahrain Internat. Bank	102.07	100.69	1.38
Bahrain M. East Bank	93.02	93.02	0.00
Pearl Investment Co.	56.81	56.81	0.00
Gulf Investments Co.	60.29	61.76	-1.47
Coast Inv. & Dev. Co.	80.52	78.79	1.73
Bahrain Kuwait Inv. Gro.	71.13	71.90	-0.77
Arabian Gen. Inv. (Shua)	59.09	60.61	-1.52
Sector Index	64.95	65.10	-0.16
Other Companies			
Gulf Cement (fully paid)	11.97	11.97	0.00
Sharghah Cement	11.00	8.00	3.00
Fujairah Cement	11.84	9.21	2.63
Ajman Cement	10.00	10.00	0.00
Ras Al-Khaima W. Cement	21.11	18.89	2.22
Gulf Medical Projects	17.66	17.66	0.00
Poultry & Fodder R. Alkha	36.36	36.36	0.00
Sector Index	14.39	12.79	1.60
Overall Index	49.08	48.69	0.39
Base Period 31/12/1983.			

Generale battle at fever pitch as Italian firm doubles stake

BRUSSELS, Feb. 27 (Reuters): A five-week-old battle for Belgium's biggest company has reached fever pitch with a decision by Italy's Carlo de Benedetti to double his offer for a controlling shareholding in Societe Generale.

As the stakes soared ever higher, stockbrokers said there were real fears that the increasingly fierce fight could claim its first casualties among brokers who had sold more Societe Generale de Belgique shares than they actually had.

"The bonanza could turn into a nightmare," one broker said. Some brokerage houses in Brussels, London and Paris faced serious problems in delivering Societe Generale shares to clients by a Friday deadline, brokers said.

Surging
A frantic scramble for shares sent their price surging by 14.9 per cent on Thursday to a new record of 7,010 francs (\$197.50) on the Brussels bourse before officials suspended trading for lack of sellers.

Then, in the latest twist to a financial thriller that has gripped Belgium for over a month, Italian tycoon De Benedetti announced he was doubling his offer for Societe Generale shares to a staggering 8,000 francs (\$225.35) each.

Seven weeks ago the stock was at just 2,250 francs (\$63.60). De Benedetti said that he, with allies, already controlled 45 per cent of the capital of the huge conglomerate and was tendering for a further seven per cent.

His rival alliance of French, Belgian and Luxembourg companies said on Wednesday it had 52 per cent and that De Benedetti had failed in his bid for effective control of 166-year-old Societe Generale.

De Benedetti and his opponents, led by French financial group Suez and Belgian insurer Groupe AG, dispute each other's claims, and some analysts share their doubts.

The Olivetti chief has already sweetened his offer once. His new offer could cost him a further \$440 million—in addition to the one billion that analysts estimate he and allies have already spent.

Financial sources closely involved with the battle say that in the end both sides will have to negotiate an agreement on running 166-year-old Societe Generale together.

Steel plant boosts output

DOHA, Feb. 27 (Opecna): The Qatar Steel Company (Qasco) produced 503,000 tonnes of iron bars last year, a two per cent increase on the 1986 output of 493,000 tonnes.

Qasco chairman Ahmed Al Sebeie said that sales in 1987 reached 500,000 tonnes, of which 15 per cent was sold on the domestic market, while the rest was exported to Qatar's fellow members in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

US still exports more technology than it imports

Asian economies urged to strengthen protection

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27 (Kin-hua): The United States is stepping up efforts to push the Asian economies to strengthen their protection of intellectual properties in the form of patents, trademarks and copyrights.

Although the US has experienced years of a merchandise trade deficit, it still exports more technology than it imports.

Therefore, pushing for the protection of patents and trademarks will benefit those US companies with technology leads in the world.

According to Donald J. Quigg, US commissioner of patents and trademarks, the US patent office receives about 137,000 applications each year, up from 107,000 five years ago. More than 65,000 applications come from countries other than the US.

However, he said that some countries and regions, including several in Asia, do not properly protect patents and trademarks. For example, he said, some governments allow only short terms for patents and sometimes give different terms to patents in different technical fields. Under such circumstances, Quigg said, companies who hold the patents cannot recoup their research cost.

Ventures
"Companies will only invest in these ventures if there is an exclusive marketing period which will help them to recoup their resources," he warned.

Many Asian economies import technologies from the industrial world, but some have found that certain technological licences are costly and lead to higher prices for finished goods. Sometimes new products based

KUWAIT

BANK SECTOR	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE
NATIONAL BANK	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.890	375000	25
GULF BANK	0.345	0.350	0.350	0.340	330000	21
COMMERCIAL BK	0.248	0.250	0.250	0.246	420000	14
ABLI BANK	0.295	0.300	0.300	0.295	78000	5
B.K.M.E.	0.300	0.305	0.305	0.295	60000	2
K.R.E.B.	0.340	0.350	0.350	0.345	710000	16
BURGAN BANK	0.246	0.250	0.250	0.248	720000	28
K.F.HOUSE	0.490	0.485	0.490	0.485	720000	28
INVESTMENT SECTOR						
KUT INV. CO.	0.204	0.210	0.210	0.200	20000	1
K.F.T.C.I.C.	0.210	0.210	0.210	0.200	140000	9
K.I.I.C.	0.156	0.160	0.160	0.160	20000	1
COM.FACILITIES	0.430	0.430	0.430	0.430	140000	9
ARLIAN INV.	0.000	0.110	0.110	0.110	80000	2
I.F.A.	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110	60000	2
INV. PEARL KWT	0.108	0.108	0.108	0.108	60000	2
INSURANCE SECTOR						
KUT INSURANCE	0.710	0.710	0.710	0.710	100000	3
ARLIA INS. CO.	0.550	0.600	0.600	0.580	50000	1
WARBA INS. CO.	0.485	0.485	0.485	0.485	50000	1
REAL ESTATE SECTOR						
KUT R.E. CO.	0.248	0.248	0.248	0.248	20000	1
UNI R.E. CO.	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.118	20000	1
R.E. CO.	0.232	0.232	0.232	0.232	20000	1
SALHAN R.E.	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	20000	1
KUT PROJECTS	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.094	20000	1
KUT R.E.I.COM	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	20000	1
INDUSTRY SECTOR						
NAT IND. CO.	0.520	0.520	0.520	0.520	20000	1
KUT M.P. IND.	0.290	0.290	0.290	0.290	20000	1
KUT CEMENT CO.	0.238	0.238	0.238	0.238	20000	1
REF. IND. CO.	0.380	0.380	0.380	0.380	20000	1
N.A.M.T.CO.	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	20000	1
KUT CABLE	0.960	0.970	0.970	0.970	30000	2
K.P.H. IND. CO.	0.126	0.126	0.126	0.126	20000	1
CONT. MARINE	0.350	0.350	0.350	0.350	20000	1
K.S.H. REP. CO.	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.046	20000	1
SERVICES SECTOR						
OVERLAND TRANS	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.080	20000	1
K.N.C. CO.	0.218	0.218	0.218	0.218	20000	1
KUT HOTELS CO.	0.174	0.174	0.174	0.174	20000	1
KUT WAREHOUSING	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150	20000	1
COM.MKT. CHMP.	0.021	0.021	0.021	0.021	20000	1
MOBILE TELE.	0.380	0.385	0.385	0.380	230000	10
KUT COMPUTER	0.188	0.192	0.192	0.190	340000	10
FOOD SECTOR						
LIVESTOCK T.T.	0.244	0.244	0.244	0.242	360000	5
UNIT FISHRIES	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.140	60000	3
UNIT POULTRY	0.238	0.238	0.238	0.238	70000	3
KUT FOODS	0.310	0.305	0.305	0.300	70000	3
AGT. FOOD PRD.	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150	70000	3
NON-KUT SECTOR						
BIN. INTER. BK	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.074	600000	7
BIN. N.EAST. BK	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.049	600000	7
UNIT. GULF BK	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.050	600000	7
COAST. INVEST.	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.093	80000	1
-A.G. INV. CORP.	0.039	0.039	0.039	0.039	80000	1
FIRST GULF BK	0.870	0.870	0.870	0.870	80000	1
B.K.I.G.	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.092	80000	1

KUWAIT STOCK EXCHANGE

COMPANIES LISTED ON THE PARALLEL MARKET	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE
FINANCIAL SECTOR						
PEARL INV. CO.	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.098	320000	2
GULF INV. CO.	0.041	0.041	0.041	0.041	320000	2
GULF INTL. INS.	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	320000	2
ARAB INT. CO.	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	320000	2
SHARJAH INS.	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	320000	2
GULF UNION INS.	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	320000	2
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR						
B. GULF MEDICAL	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	960000	6
B. GULF WHITE CNT	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	960000	6
D-AJMAN CEMENT	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	340000	13
F-ALJAHRAH CEMENT	0.008	0.009	0.009	0.008	800000	13
F-SHARJAH CEMENT	0.010	0.011	0.011	0.011	800000	13
G-GULF CEMENT	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	800000	13
N-UNM. GAINAIN	0.019	0.020	0.020	0.020	80000	1

Saudi riyal rates steady

BAHRAIN, Feb. 27 (Reuters): Saudi interbank deposit rates were stable in a quiet market today, dominated by technical considerations.

Activity

Dealers reported activity mainly in tomorrow-next, which traded as high as 7-3/4 per cent, due in large part to the rollover of maturities at the end of February. They said banks wanted to have funds available in case maturities were not renewed.

But there was little activity in other periods and Saudi banks

continued to hold funds in expectation of the first government issue of treasury bonds, widely predicted to occur in mid-March.

Fixed maturities were little changed from Thursday ahead of the Friday weekend in the Gulf.

One-month funds were quoted at 6-7/8, 11/16 per cent, three-months at 7-1/16, 6-15/16 per cent, six-months at 7-1/4, 1/8 per cent and one-year at 7-1/2, 3/8 per cent.

Spot-next and one-week were quoted at seven, 6-1/2 per cent. The spot riyal was little changed from Thursday at 3.7500/03 to the dollar.

UK growth of 4.8pc best since '73 boom

LONDON, Feb. 27. Last year saw the fastest growth in the economy since 1973, the year of Lord Barber's boom. For the year as a whole the economy grew by 4.8 per cent compared with the previous year.

Preliminary figures for the final quarter show gross domestic product grew by 1 per cent, measured by output, confirming that so far there has been little slowing down in the economy despite the steep fall in stock market prices.

Forecast
The continuing buoyancy of the economy suggests the Treasury's forecast of 12.5 per cent growth for this year may be too pessimistic. Even if output remained unchanged at the level reached in the last three months

of last year, the average of 1988 would be more than 2 per cent higher than in 1987.

The Treasury said yesterday that the economy

ARAB TIMES Classifieds

ACCOMMODATION

Available

KUWAIT City, above Hot Pot restaurant, Burgan Building, 4th floor, Flat No. 48. Room available immediately for a family or bachelors. Contact Mercian Fernandes personally. (AT2-411502-2)

SHARQ, one room in a CAC flat for 2 Indian or Pakistani bachelors to share with three Indian bachelors. Rent KD80 only. Tele. Salim or Mohammad, 2434633, 11 am—9 pm. (AT6-41153-3)

For Rent

NEW flat, super deluxe, CAC with tele. and private entrance. Suitable for a small family or lady. Tele. 5633999. (AT1-41141-3)

MISHRIF, deluxe, CAC, carpeted single storey villa comprising 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, living and dining area, large fitted kitchen outside building, beautiful garden, covered car park and telephone. Rent KD650. Tele. 5391720/5382783, 1-8 pm. (AT2-41169-6)

FOR SALE

Miscellaneous

CHEVROLET Blazer '79, KD500; new garden furniture, Atari game, computer for sale. Tele. 5387413, 4-8 pm. (AT2-41173-2)

A FAMILY leaving Kuwait selling complete 2-bedroom apartment. Furniture used only for 3 months. KD2000, firm. Hawalli, central AC. Rent KD215. Tele. 2645326, 6—9 pm. (AT6-T/M-3)

HOUSEHOLD equipment, fridge, washing machine, gas-stove, showcase, sideboards, cupboards TV and Sony stereo, Galant '86, owner leaving Kuwait. Tele. 5757113. (AT2-41165-3)

A FLAT in Farwaniya behind Holiday Inn. Rent KD120 only. Tele. Salim or Mohammad, 2434633, 11 am—9 pm. (AT6-41154-3)

Furniture

VARIOUS furniture items for immediate sale at throwaway prices. Tele. Khokhar, 2418815. (AT2-41170-3)

USED furniture, bedroom, living room, dining room, master bed, single bed and plants and other items in excellent condition. Tele. Dr. Manaf, 2637733, 4.30-8.30 pm. (AT6-41152-3)

Cars

FIAT Croma, 1987 model, metallic turquoise, 5 speed gears, full options, full insurance till July 88. Super condition. Tele. 3982742, after 4 pm. (AT2-41132-3)

MERCEDES 230E, 1982, manual, white, in excellent condition KD1400. Tele. 4840198. (AT1-41158-3)

MERCEDES 250, 1979, automatic, power windows, new tyres etc. Tested upto Aug '88, good runner, needs spray for next test. Re-advised due to time waster. KD1,150, ono, cash. Tele. Mike, 5338308; anytime. (AT6-41155-3)

Audi 200 Turbo, 1984, full options, sunroof, 43,000 km, black, in very good condition KD2450. Tele. Shakhmour, 5716473, 1-3 pm after 6 pm. (AT2-41164-3)

WANTED

RIGHT hand drive car. Any make and model considered from Rolls Royce to Mini. Tele. Bush, 4814477. (AT2-41166-3)

WANTED used Tip Suzuki or another make, preferably less than 3 years old. Tele. Mr. Vlada, 4813140. (AT1-41161-3)

SITUATIONS

Vacant

MAID required for an Indian family, part-time, 7 am-3 pm. Tele. 5631013 res. after 3 pm. (AT1-41146-3)

MAID required, preferably Filipino, for a small family of 3 people. Tele. 5710923. (AT2-41167-3)

VACANCY PURCHASER

1. Good command of English
 2. More than 5 years experience with local market in selling/buying by retail/wholesale of building/const. materials & heavy equipment parts.
 3. Valid Kuwaiti driving license
 4. Transferable Residence.
- Please call 4837271 or 4837281 to submit bio data.

LOST

PASSPORT No. E-417979, Mofizul Islam, Md. Kulu Miah, P.S. Comilla, Bangladesh. Tele. 4845272. (AT2-41171-3)

HAWIYA No. 135060 and Civil ID card in the name of Mohan Lal Vajji Patel, lost in Shuwaikh. Tele. Mohan Lal, 4834382, 8 am-12.30 pm, 3.30-7 pm. (AT2-41168-2)

PASSPORT No. E-093451, Abdul-Jalil, father, Abdul Sattar, P.S. Chhagalniya, Dist-Feni, Bangladesh. Tele. 4845772. (AT2-41172-3)

CARPET CLEANING

Sofa, window, and all kinds of general cleaning

Contact Gulf Dawn Cleaning Est. Tel. 5624725

BLACK Samsonite briefcase, contains very important documents badly needed, lost at the airport, 5 am Sunday, Feb 21. Tele. Josefa Deguino, 4840300 ext. 2351, 2355. (AT6-41160-3)

SERVICES

Tuition

TUITION available for stitching clothes, 3 days a week, 2 hours each day in Salmiya near the Indian school. Tele. Mrs. Rehana, 5634235, 6-7 pm. (AT2-41151-3)

NURSERY for LKG & UKG of Indian schools syllabus, given by a trained teacher in Sharq, behind Burgan Bank H.Q. Tele. 2422757. (AT1-41139-3)

Video Film International
40 films KD7
55 films KD10
80 films KD20
Prices include all movies except Arabic movies.
Tel. 4344290
Juleeb Al Shiyukh

FOR RENT

Villas, 1/2 villas, flats, apartments, stores, etc., in all areas of Kuwait.

Messiah Beach Real Estate
Tel. 2401858
2408510

AL ASMAR

Suits (3 pieces) KD 15,000
Suits KD 5,000
Shirts, Super Lino KD 2,500
Ladies and Gents' woolen pullovers KD 2,000
Ties KD 1,000

Fahd Al Salem St — Al Awwaq Bldg — beside Malla Saleh Mosque.
Tel. 2422803

FOR RENT Villa

Western style house, superb reception, garden view in quiet neighbourhood.
For more details please Tel. 5339280, 5339281.

Look at what you get !!

Nice entrance/reception, dining room, large lounge, newly-fitted kitchen, large basement w/3 way access, 3/5 Brms + 4 bath rooms, laundry area + nanny's room, maid's qts x 2 rooms, kitchen + bath + carport.
Well kept, practical size/layout, carpets throughout.

Area: Mishrif - 8
Rent: KD. 900/- negotiable
Sales: Executive/diplomat
To view: 2436885 (Ray)

WANTED

LABOURERS

for a cleaning company with transferable residence.
Tel. 2407838

THE ENGLISH SCHOOL (AT AL SURRA)

PO Box 379 Safat 13004 Kuwait

Registrations for pupils are now being accepted for the scholastic year beginning September, 1988 —
Telephone 5318155.

TEACHERS

Applications from suitable qualified teachers of music, and class teachers of infant and junior level children are also invited. Application forms are available from the school office, and should be returned as soon as possible.



A video & TV repair workshop requires

a video & TV technician

for employment in Fahaheel area.

Call tel. 2656829
Mustafa Fayez Ibrahim
Al Attal Exhibition

Hatid Ligaya offers free delivery in provinces

Philippines Door to Door Service

Abughosh Int'l.
Tel. 4843447
SARAH

If you are looking for a complete building for your staff or villa or flats in Hadiya, Fintas, Abu Halifa, Mangat, Fahaheel.

Contact the expert
Terkait Real Estate Est.
Tel. 3913189,
3919884.

FOR RENT

Plats and villas at Al Rayan Residential Complex

in Abu Halifah area

Situated in an excellent location with a sea view from the 1st floor.

The complex is provided with:

- childrens recreation facilities
- squash, tennis and basketball courts
- supermarket
- park
- central aerial
- exercise room
- swimming pool for adults and children
- sauna
- emergency power generating sets

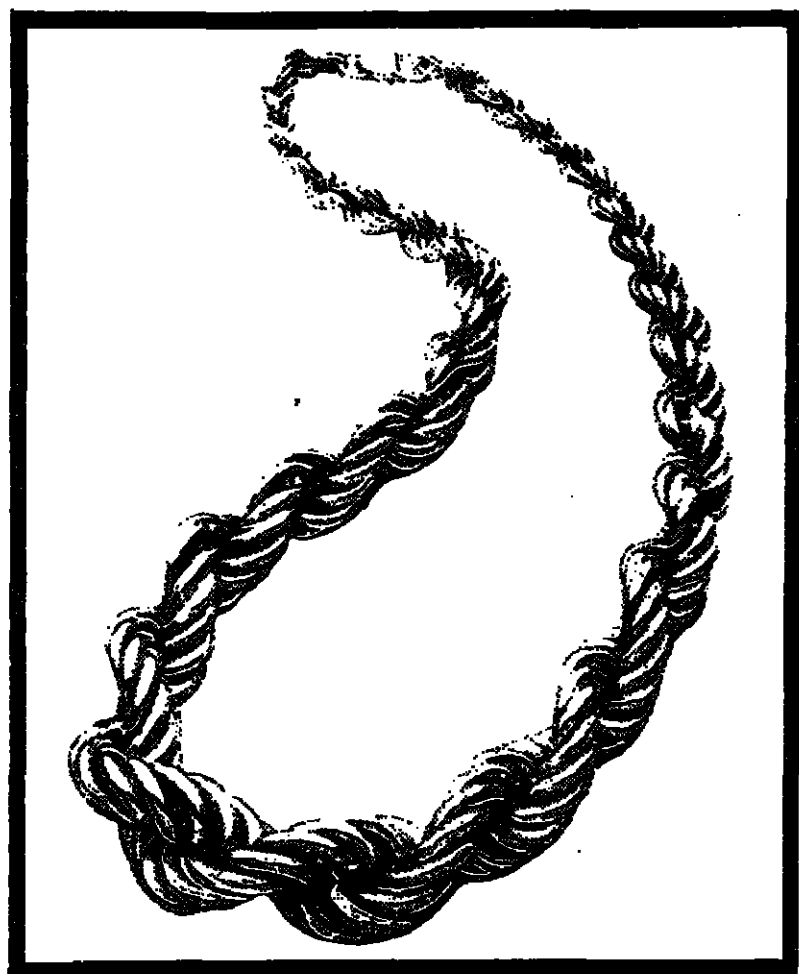
* Two bedroom
* Three bedroom
* Villas

Deluxe, central airconditioning, marble floor in saloon, wooden cabinets, and kitchen with refrigerator and cooker.

Also furnished apartments and villas available for rent.

EXQUISITE ITALIAN DESIGNS

at affordable prices



Come in and see our new line of gold and precious jewellery

Boutique
Al Nerah

Souk Al Watya Kuwait Telephone 2448562.

GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY
For small businessmen
Shops for household/kitchenware/foodstuffs/garments/textile/leather-making/hardware/plants & flowers and other luggage etc.
In 2 supermarkets (newly opened) located at Darwaza Abdul Razzak/Souk Wahej (New City)
Rent (KD80 - 125) free residence P. & license.
Contact Tel: 2402194/
2420352 (Aslam)

FOR RENT
In Qortoba, 4 flats each with 3 bedrooms, hall, 2 bathrooms, kitchen — CAC in a new villa. Rent KD 400 with water and electricity.
2426380
2457834

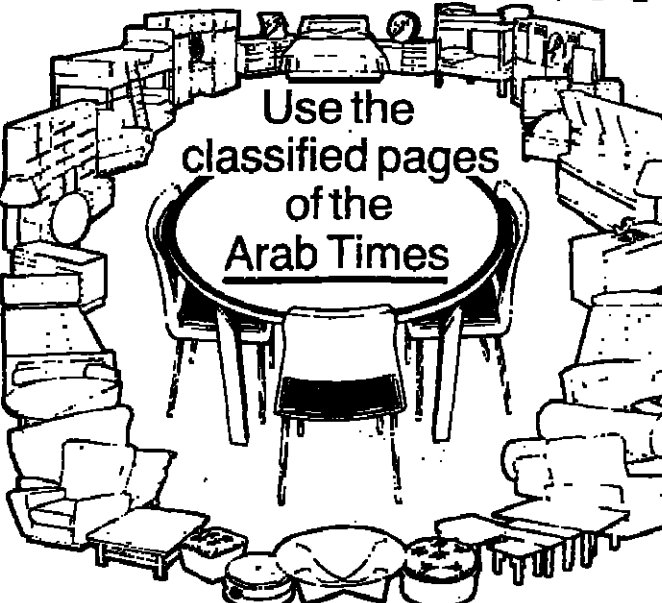
ARAB TIMES
ADVERTISEMENT DEPT.
TEL: 4816326, 4816327

FOR RENT
Villas, half villas, buildings, and flats with or without swimming pool.
Al Azraq Real Estate
Tel. 2452199, 2452198

Required A Car Electrician
with transferable residence.
Tel: 2647370, Hawalli, Kooos Al Jazira Cars Repair.

Required A full-time driver
Should have valid private driving licence and a transferable residence.
Call tel. 2652943 between 4.00 and 9.00 pm today.

To buy and sell used furniture



ARAB TIMES NEWS IS OUR BUSINESS

Norman stretches lead to four shots

CANBERRA, Feb. 27 (Reuters): Greg Norman found the greens but lost his voice as he stretched his lead to four shots today in the Royal Canberra Open golf tournament.

A throat ailment which confined him to bed on his arrival in Australia two weeks ago has returned.

But the world number one managed to fire a three-under-par 69 for a three-round total of 201, ahead of compatriot Peter Senior on 205 after a 70.

West German Bernhard Langer is on 207, a shot clear of veteran Noel Ratcliffe of Australia who returned a 66.

After sinking a 15-foot birdie putt on the final hole, Norman strode off the green and apologized for not being able to attend his press conference.

Senior struggled hard all day to make up ground on Norman but the closest he got was three shots away. "Every time I made a move I seemed to lack concentration and bogeyed the next hole," he said.

Canberra's altitude of 700 metres above sea level with the resultant thin air is playing havoc with players' club choice.

"The clubs are going so much further than they normally are. I've been hitting my seven iron 180 yards," Senior said.

Despite his throat infection, Norman will be hard to catch. "You can bet he won't shoot any worse than 70 tomorrow, so I'll have to shoot something pretty good," Senior said.

LA Open

● Pacific Palisades, Calif. Americans Ben Crenshaw and Jay Haas shared the lead yesterday after the second round of play in the \$750,000 Los Angeles Open with 36-hole totals of nine-under-par 133.

Crenshaw, who lost this tournament in a playoff to Taiwan's TC Chen last year, had the low round of the tournament so far with a brilliant seven-under-par 64 over the 7,029-yard course.

Crenshaw had nine birdies and two eagles on his 133, which vaulted into contention for the \$135,000 first place prize.

Haas, one of the hottest players and leading money winner on the PGA tour this year with \$261,331, shared the first round lead after a 65 and he returned to shoot a three-under-par 68.

Spain's Seve Ballesteros, making his second US start of the year, posted an even par 71, but failed to make the cut finishing at two-over-par 144 for the first two days.

A single shot behind Crenshaw and Haas are compatriots Chip Beck, Ed Fiori, Donnie Hammond, Steve Lowery and newcomer Rick Pearson who entered the field at the last moment on Thursday morning when Mark O'Meara withdrew due to illness.

All five are at eight-under 134 with five more players three shots back at six-under-par 136 including Aki Ohnishi of Japan and Steve Elkington of Australia. Both players had four-under-par 67s.

Other players at six-under-par include Americans Mike Reid, Scott Verplank and Corey Pavin. Reid had the most spectacular shot of the day with a double eagle two on the par-five first hole. He sank a 206-yard four-wood shot for the rare score.

Malaysian Open

● In Kuala Lumpur, Britain's Beverly Hall won the Malaysian Open women's golf championship today by two strokes, scoring a final-round two-over-par 74 for a total of 216.

Cornie Dibnah of Australia also shot 74 to finish second on 218. Three strokes behind in third was Briton Suzanne Strudwick who carded 72 in the final round.

Defending champion Ikuyo Shiotani of Japan and Asian circuit leader Elizabeth Wilson of Australia shared 17th place with 229.

Kuala Lumpur is the third leg of the Asian circuit. Wilson won the recent Singapore and Indonesian opens.

Hawaiian Open

● In Oahu, Hawaii, American Joan Delk recorded a three-under-par 69 for a 140 total and a one-stroke lead after the second round of the \$300,000 Hawaiian Ladies Open golf tournament.

Delk, in her third year on the LPGA circuit, posted two birdies and one bogey on the front nine in her round for the lead over Ayako Okamoto of Japan and American Joanne Carner.

Okamoto and Carner notched a 72 and 71 respectively.

"My strategy for today was to hit the fairways and the greens," said Delk. "I just tried to be patient."

SOVIETS WIN BIATHLON RELAY AND HOCKEY GOLD

Schneider edges Nilsson in women's slalom race

MOUNT ALLAN, Alberta, Feb. 27 (AP): Vreni Schneider of Switzerland, gold medalist in the giant slalom two days ago, edged Sweden's Camilla Nilsson by one-hundredth of a second yesterday in the first run of the Olympic women's slalom.

Schneider, who leads the World Cup slalom standings in what has been a wide-open race all season, used a flawless but rather passive run to take the slimmest of leads entering the second run.

Timed

Schneider, 14th out of the starting gate, was timed in 48.81 seconds down the 63-gate course.

Nilsson, seeking the first Alpine medal here for Sweden's women, had a clocking of 48.82, followed by Yugoslavia's Mateja Svet in 49.21, Austria's Ida Ladstätter in 49.71 and West Germany's Christa Kinzhofer-Guehlein, silver medalist in the giant slalom, in 49.84.

Svet is trying for Yugoslavia's first Alpine medal of the Games.

Blanca Fernandez Ochoa of Spain was sixth in 49.89, and Switzerland's Brigitte Oerthli, already a double silver medalist

in these Games, was seventh in 49.95.

Fernandez Ochoa, participating in her third Olympics, led the giant slalom after one run before falling in the second. Schneider went on to win the gold.

"I'm surprised because I did not attack," said Schneider, 23. "When I saw on the board I had clocked the fastest time. I was astonished. I'm in a good position for the gold, but I have very strong slalom specialists just behind me."

Four skiers in the first seed of 15 did not finish their runs, including Austria's Anita Wachter, defending World Cup slalom champion Corinne Schmidhauser of Switzerland and American Tamara McKinney.

Ninth

Paoletta Magoni Sforza of Italy, the defending Olympic champion in slalom, finished ninth in 50.42. Magoni Sforza has finished no higher than eighth in any World Cup slalom this season.

"I didn't let my skis go," she said. "I think my title's gone, but I will fight in the second run to finish among the top five, at least."

The first run was held under nearly ideal conditions, with bright sunshine and very little wind, but the course still claimed four of the 15 top-seeded skiers. Austria's Anita Wachter, American Tamara McKinney and Swiss Corinne Schmidhauser missed gates, while France's Christelle Guignard fell.

Coasted

In Canmore, the Soviet Union took the lead on the second lap and coasted to victory in the 4 x 7.5-kilometre freestyle biathlon relay yesterday at the Winter Olympics.

It was the sixth consecutive Olympic relay victory for the Soviets, the longest unbeaten streak by any team in the Winter Games.

The Soviet quartet's winning time was 1 hour, 22 minutes and 30.0 seconds. All four Soviets shot clean at the shooting stations.

West Germany, led by 1984 Olympic 20k champ Peter Angerer, won the silver, trailing the Soviets by 1 minute and 7.4 seconds. Italy grabbed the bronze, 1:21.5 behind.

Frank-Peter Roetsch of East Germany, winner of the 20k and 10k titles, moved his team from 12th to fifth in the second leg. But it wasn't enough, as the East Germans had to settle with fifth, 1:58.4 behind.

"I skied really hard, but I was hyper when I shot," said Roetsch, who still shot clean at both stations.

Austria, which led after the first lap, ahead of Italy and the Soviets, eventually finished a strong fourth, 1:47.6 behind the Soviets.

Valery Medvedev, twice a runner-up in the 20k and 10k individual events, anchored the Soviet team.

Sergei Chepikov put the Soviets ahead 2.5 kilometres into the second lap, after the first shooting range on that leg. Others on the Soviet team were Dmitri Vassilyev and Alexander Popov.

Others on the West German team were Ernst Reiter, Stefan Hoeck and Friedrich Fischer.

Biathlon combines the rigours of cross-country skiing with the precision of rifle marksmanship in a gruelling test of endurance and stamina.

In the relay, the biathletes made two stops at the range, the first for five shots from the prone position, the second for five more from the standing position. For each miss, the biathlete must ski a penalty lap around a 150-metre penalty course.

This was the last biathlon event of these Games.

Meanwhile, traditional Olympic ice hockey kings, the Soviet Union collected the gold medal yesterday — 48 hours earlier than anticipated and courtesy of long-time rivals Czechoslovakia.

The Russians came to Calgary with a question mark hanging over their form. But they improved with every match and retained their crown with an unbeaten run which climaxed with an effortless 7-1 win over world champions Sweden.

The way was cleared for their triumph when Czechoslovakia scored a surprise 5-2 win over medal-contenders Finland earlier.

Had Finland triumphed the title would have hinged on the outcome of their final match against the Russians tomorrow.

Canada snapped a medal-round scoreless streak of almost 200 minutes and then scored three times in a 1:34 span of the second period, staying alive in the Olympic hockey bronze medal race with a 3-1 victory over West Germany.

The Canadians had been outscored 11-0 in three medal-round games dating back to 1984 and didn't appear ready to score either.

West Germany, which had a surprising 4-1 record during divisional play but lost decisively to Finland in its medal-round opener, dominated the first period. The West Germans outshot Canada 17-7 and would

have had a few goals were it not for the outstanding goaltending of Andy Moog.

But with 26 seconds left in the period, Serge Roy's innocent-looking shot from the point was deflected by teammate Serge Boisvert past goalie Josef Schicklenrieder.

The East German former world cycling champion added the crown to the 500 silver she collected on Monday, shortly after watching compatriot Karin Kania lower her own world mark to 1:17.70. Undaunted, Rothenburger took to the ice and shaved another 0.05 of a second off the record.

Christa Rothenburger's 1,000 metres speed skating victory in a world record one minute 17.65 seconds surprised few.

Rothenburger could now become only the second athlete to win Summer and Winter golds if she wins the sprint cycling in Seoul in September.

Conditions at Mount Allan and Canmore — 100 km to the west of Calgary — were once again perfect while temperatures in the city rose to around 14 degrees centigrade and rivalled those in Miami.

The Soviets and East Germans continued to pile on the heat at the top of the medals table. The Russians lead with 11 golds to East Germany's eight. Finland are the best of the rest with four golds.

Medal standings

CALGARY, Feb. 27 (AP): Medal standings after the events yesterday.

	G	S	B	Tot
Soviet Union	10	9	7	26
East Germany	8	7	4	19
Finland	4	0	2	6
Switzerland	3	5	4	12
Austria	3	4	2	9
Sweden	3	0	1	4
West Germany	2	1	2	7
United States	2	1	2	5
Holland	1	2	2	5
Italy	1	0	2	3
France	1	0	1	2
Norway	0	3	2	5
Yugoslavia	0	2	1	3
Canada	0	1	3	4
Czechoslovakia	0	1	2	3
Japan	0	0	1	1



Switzerland's Vreni Schneider hits a gate during her first run. (Reuters wirephoto)



Czech player Peter Rosol (left) goes to the ice after Finnish goalie blocked him while attempting to shoot a goal in the second period of their medal round match on Friday. (Reuters wirephoto)



East Germany's Christa Rothenburger races to a gold in women's 1000 metre speed skating event. (Reuters wirephoto)

In Filipino Non-pro Bowling League

Manila team advances to final

FAVOURITE Manila team (the Diplomats), who was ahead by one point margin against Pasig (the Textiles) in the elimination round, drew 2-2 and advance to the final game after the last week of the first Filipino Non-pro Bowling League held on Thursday and Friday at 300 Club.

Despite the loss by the Diplomats in the 1st and 2nd games by 6 and 11 pins respectively against the Textiles, the Diplomats made an impressive and strong comeback and won the second game by incredible margin of 186 pins, 913-727 and wound up with an overall advantage of 169 pinfalls (2,644-2,475) in their favour.

Roller

Diplomat Bob Peek was the outstanding bowler in the game who rolled 390 for Manila team, supported by Milo Coronado 327 and Lando Caburao 321.

The other Diplomats who showed their prowess are Tonette Arizabal, Pete Nierva and Manny Insento.

On the other hand, consistent Arthur Reyes with his solid performance was the hero for Pasig Team who grossed 568 also shared the men's high game followed by Nestor Sogale, Mars Balisi, Lynne Reyes, Art Cabal and Julie Teves.

Soccer fans released on bail

BRUSSELS, Belgium, Feb. 27 (AP): A Brussels appeal court yesterday released on bail 20 British soccer fans charged with manslaughter following the 1985 Heysel riots which killed 39 people.

The court ruled that despite the charges against the 20, the setting of bail was sufficient to assure their appearance at the trial, said a court official, who asked not to be identified. No date for the trial has been set.

A lower court had set bail for the fans of FC Liverpool, ranging from 50,000 francs (\$1,430) to 200,000 francs (\$5,715), earlier this month.

Including five suspects released on bail earlier, all 25 suspects extradited to Belgium and brought to Louvain prison 30 kilometres (18 miles) east of Brussels last September, have now been released to await trial.

They were arrested in Britain after video tapes and photographs indicated they had been involved in the Heysel riots, which happened prior to the May 29, 1985, European Champions Cup final between Liverpool and Juventus Turin of Italy.

British supporters charged rival fans in an adjacent stand, causing panic and 39 people died, mostly Italians, when they were trampled to death during the retreat from the violence.



Mandahuyong team (The Medicine Makers) one of the participants in the first Filipino Non-pro Bowling League are composed of (left) Rudy Zablan captain, Baby Millante and Rene Millante, (standing L-R) Toto Abear vice-captain, George Abenoja and Nono Maramba.

Meanwhile, perfectionist Willy Sabay of Caloocan City with his magnificent semi-hooked style set a new record for men's high series with superb 3-game marked of 645 pinfalls and clobbered the old score of 615. He rolled 226 pins twice and out-pointed some of the aspirants for the men's honours except in the high game and romped away the high game (shared with Arthur Reyes) and average as well with 226 and 215 respectively.

Powerful

Unstoppable and veteran Eva Sabay also from Caloocan City with her powerful ball rolling and excellent performance dominated all the women's awards and captured the high game, series and average with scores of 192, 518 and 173 respectively.

Aside from the individual honours to be awarded, two special awards will be given to the most valuable bowler and rookie bowler of the league.

The championship game for the top three team finishers, they are Caloocan City, Pasay City and Manila will be held on Friday, March 4 billed as "super Friday" contests, at 2:00 pm. All bowlers are welcome to watch their favourite teams in the battle of champions.

Other team results were: Thursday games — Caloocan City thrashed Valenzuela 4-0.

Team	GP	W	L	Pinfalls	Ave
Caloocan City (Steel Makers)	36	43	5	30,047	835
Pasay City (Contractors)	36	42	6	29,033	806
Manila (Diplomats)	36	36	12	29,552	821
Pasig (Textiles)	36	35	13	28,994	803
Las Pinas (Car Makers)	36	26	22	27,464	765
Marikina (Shoe Makers)	36	25	23	28,253	785
Malabon (Sweet Makers)	36	25	23	27,309	759
Valenzuela (Rice Exporters)	36	20	28	26,822	743
Mandahuyong (Medicine Makers)	36	18	30	25,755	715
Quezon City (Economists)	36	12	36	23,347	649
Makati-Gmbh (Bankers)	36	11.5	36.5	26,245	729
Noronas (Fish Exporters)	36	10	38	23,008	639
Paranaque (Salt Makers)	36	8.5	39.5	24,682	686

The League is being sponsored by Mabuhay Restaurant.

Torrence wins 40th race in indoor meet

NEW YORK, Feb. 27 (UPI): Evelyn Ashford registered her first victory of the indoor track and field season last night — three hours after the finish of the 55 metres final at the USA — Mobil championships.

Ashford, 30, the world 100 metres record holder and the reigning Olympic champion, back in competition after injury wrecked her 1987 season, had clocked 6.66 seconds to finish with Gwen Torrence after fading in the final two strides at Madison Square Garden.

Clocked

Torrence clocked the identical time but was declared the winner in a photo finish to claim her 40th successive indoor victory since January 1986. That left Ashford without a triumph in five indoor meets this winter.

Or so it seemed. Russ Rodgers, head coach at Fairleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey, lodged a protest on Ashford's behalf. After three

hours of debate and scrutiny of the photo-finish picture, the appeals jury ruled that the two runners could not be separated. It was only the fourth time since the meet began 100 years ago in 1888 that a track final had ended in a dead-heat.

The decision gave Ashford her sixth 55-metre national indoor title, while Torrence earned her first.

Ashford said she viewed the indoor season as a means of ensuring that the thigh and hamstring injuries which kept her out of the world championships last year were healed.

Fastest

"My aim for this year is to be the best — the fastest woman sprinter in the world again — and right now I feel good," Ashford said. "I am much better outdoors than I am indoors anyway. Ask Gwen, ask any of the other girls. The main aim this year is to make the Olympics and to win the 100 metres."

Torrence, 22, nursing a cold, has enjoyed an impressive winter this year and is learning to live with the pressure that comes with success.

"It didn't help that everyone was saying I hadn't lost a race in a long time," Torrence said. "I actually thought Evelyn beat me. Now I would like to prove to myself that I can run with the girls outdoors."

Hurdles

If the women's 55 metres was one of the closest finals ever, then men's 55-metre hurdles was even closer as soon as it started.

World 110-metre hurdle champion Greg Foster scored the most emphatic victory of the meet when he burst out of the blocks first and screeched away from arch-rival Tomie Campbell, the world indoor champion, to clock 6.93 seconds, the fastest time in the world this year.

"My main objective was to get

out of the blocks fast," Foster said. "I had been lackadaisical coming out. I'm so happy tonight, but a 6.80 would have been a lot better."

Campbell was second in 7.12 and Arthur Blake third in 7.13. Canada's Julie Rocheleau scored an upset in the women's 55 metres hurdles when she clocked 7.40 seconds to win the title, as favourite Jackie Joyner-Kersey hit two hurdles and fell before the finish line.

Rocheleau's time was the sixth fastest ever indoors and was identical to Joyner-Kersey's time in the afternoon heats.

Thrilling

Diane Dixon, who set an American record of 51.95 seconds in the morning, won a thrilling race with Olympic champion Valerie Brisco, coming off the final bend to win in 52.51, a metre clear of Brisco who clocked 52.90.

Bassinski sets record in air pistol shooting

STAVANGER, Norway, Feb. 27 (AP): Igor Bassinski of the Soviet Union set a new individual world record of 692.3 points in 70-shot air pistol shooting today.

Three Soviet entries aggregated a new men's 60-shot team world record of 1756 points.

The records came on the second day of the 1988 European championships in air-weapons shooting entered by 400 competitors from 27 countries.

Alexandre Melentiev of the Soviet Union, who placed overall sixth, held the old individual record of 689.7 points from last year. The old team record of 1752 points was also set last year by the same Soviet team.

Ragnar Skanaker of Sweden was runner-up to Bassinski with 688.5 points and Gernot Eder of East Germany placed third with 684.3.

Czechoslovakia's Miroslav Ruzicka was fourth with 683.8 points and Vincenzo Tondo of Italy was fifth with 682.6. Then came Alexandre Melentiev of the Soviet Union with 682.6. Sergei Pyjjanov, also of the Soviet Union, with 681.2, and Norway's Stein Fiskebeck with 680.3.

Those eight had qualified for the 10-shot final round in which Tondo advanced from eight to fifth place.

Bassinski, Melentiev and fellow Soviet team member Sergei Pyjjanov had placed preliminary first, fourth and fifth with 590, 584 and 582 points for the team world record.

Bassinski's 60-shot result of 590 points tied the listed 60-shot world record set by V. Turla of Finland in 1982.

W. German breaks high jump record

WEST BERLIN, Feb. 27 (Reuters): A world indoor high jump record has been set to the sound of pop music.

Inspired to greater heights by the strains of "final countdown" by the Swedish Pop group Europe, West Germany's Carlo Thraenhardt soared to a record 2.42 metres at a meeting in West Berlin last night.

Hit tune

Thraenhardt began jumping to the 1987 hit tune at exhibitions in West Germany, and the mix of music and athletic grace turned into a major crowd pleaser, according to the West German sports news agency SID.

Thraenhardt later won permission to play his song at high-jump competitions in West Germany, but it would not be allowed at major international track meetings, SID said.

The old record of 2.41 metres was set by Sweden's Patrick Sjöberg in Athens in February last year.

Sjöberg finished third in the event with 2.34 behind Thraenhardt and Olympic champion Dietmar Mogenburg of West Germany who cleared 2.36.

World class

In East Berlin, East German athletes produced world class performances at the national indoor championships yesterday.

Silke Moeller clocked 7.07 seconds in the women's 60 metres, clipping 0.05 seconds off her personal best in her first race over the distance this indoor season.

"I'm very satisfied with the time, although my start was not of the best," Moeller said. "But in order to press Nelli Cooman of the Netherlands I will have to improve further," she told the ADN news agency



